



Arctic Wolf

The High Arctic



by Laura DeLallo

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Environment and Natural Resources
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The First Meeting

“Did you hear that?” Dean Cluff asked his coworker Dave Mech. The only thing that Dave could hear was the sound of raindrops pounding on the hood of his poncho. It was around 11:00 at night on July 6, 2009, but it was still light outside. The two **biologists** were sitting atop a rocky hill on Ellesmere Island, Canada, waiting to spot an arctic wolf.



Dean Cluff (left) and
Dave Mech (right)
on Ellesmere Island



Ellesmere Island is located in the High Arctic—the northernmost part of the **Arctic region**. From mid-April through the end of August, the sun never sets in that part of the Arctic. From late October through mid-February, it never rises.

Suddenly, Dean heard the sound again. Could it be a wolf howling? Then, about 30 minutes later, Dean and Dave saw something white moving toward them. “A wolf!” Dean shouted. Soon they noticed another one not too far behind. Dave and Dean sat very still. The wolves walked right up to them. It was exactly what the scientists were hoping for.

An arctic wolf



No Fear

In most other areas of the world, studying a wolf up close would have been very difficult. Wolves fear humans, who sometimes hunt and kill them for their fur. Other people kill them for **sport**. As a result, wolves don't usually let humans get very close to them.

The arctic wolf gets its name from the area where it lives.



Adult wolves have no natural **predators**. Only humans hunt wolves.

However, the arctic wolves that Dave and Dean study live so far north that they don't see people often enough to be afraid of them. The nearest human community to the wolves is Eureka, a small weather station and military base located a few miles away. Only a handful of people live there year-round.

Arctic Wolves in the Wild



Where arctic wolves live in the High Arctic



**The Eureka
weather station**

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About the Author

Laura DeLallo has written several children's books and has had international success as a singer and songwriter. She lives with her family in Stamford, Connecticut.



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It was July 6, 2009, and biologists Dave Mech and Dean Cluff were sitting atop a rocky hill on Ellesmere Island, Canada. They were hoping to spot an arctic wolf. Suddenly, Dean heard a sound. Could it be a wolf howling? Then, about 30 minutes later, the men saw something white moving toward them. "A wolf!" Dean shouted. Soon they noticed another one not too far behind. Dave and Dean sat very still. The wolves walked right up to them. It was exactly what they were hoping for.

Look inside to find out how Dave and Dean track and study arctic wolves. You'll also discover how the wolves hunt and raise their young—and how they survive in one of the coldest places on Earth.

Arctic Wolf
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Caribou
And Reindeer, Too

Polar Bear
Shrinking Ice

Sled Dog
Powerful Miracle

Walrus
Tusk, Tusk

Wolverine
Super Strong

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