

Wolves Welcome?



Amber Fairbanks

Biology and Human Anatomy &
Physiology teacher at

Waukee Northwest High School

2020 extern at Iowa PBS

Part I: Overview of Workplace

Iowa PBS

Iowa PBS, formerly Iowa Public Television, is Iowa's statewide public broadcasting network. Iowa PBS provides “quality, alternative programming that educates, enlightens, and entertains viewers throughout the state.” Their mission is to provide locally produced public-service programs that are noncommercial, and have lasting value regardless of where you live or what you can afford. Additionally their educational media and resources help prepare Iowa’s children for success in school and opens up the world to them in age-appropriate ways.

Adapted from iowapbs.org

Part II: Workplace Focus

My work with the Iowa PBS Education team provided me with several opportunities to learn about their mission and what occurs behind the scenes. Part of my experience was to identify usable footage from Market to Market, Iowa PBS Performance and B film that could be used for the [Iowa Science Phenomena website](#). Once footage was identified, I created submissions which included alignment to Iowa Core Standards. I also reviewed previous submissions for quality. Also collaborated on the creation of a phenomena video that will be (hopefully) be published on the website. This work included contacting a partner for the film shoot, drafting the script, and then work alongside producers, editors and camera crew to complete the project. Additionally, I have had the opportunity to meet with staff at Iowa PBS and learn about the work they do.

Part III: Introduce the Problem

Use of phenomena to promote student learning and understanding of the reintroduction of wolves to the upper Midwest.

Part IV: Standards, Driving and Essential Questions

Iowa Core Standard:

MS-LS2-2. Construct an explanation that predicts patterns of interactions among organisms across multiple ecosystems.

SEP: Constructing Explanations and Designing Solutions

DCI: LS2.A: Interdependent Relationships in Ecosystems

CC: Patterns

Guiding Questions:

1. What role do wolves play in the ecosystem?
2. Do we really need wolves?
3. What about other predators?

Part V: Extern Host Role



Iowa PBS will hopefully provide the “Wolves Welcome?” phenomena on its [Iowa Science Phenomena website](#), making it available to educators across the state and nation.

Part VI: Student Learning

Students should have multiple avenues to explore relationships in an ecosystem, as well as human impact.

Classroom suggestions for this phenomenon/PBL:

- Students could locate and analyze data regarding wolf populations
- Students could create and analyze food webs comparing the presence and absence of wolf populations
- Students could debate the management issue of the wolf population in the upper midwest
- Students could draft a plan to manage the wolf population in the upper midwest
- Guest speaker from the local county conservation office (or zoo) could come and speak to students
- Students could create a Public Service Announcement to educate others on an endangered species and how to prevent extinction. (This could be for the wolf or a choice project on any endangered species.)