

Effects of Nuclear Disasters on Wildlife

Link to PBS Documentary Wolves of Chernobyl: <http://video.pbs.org/video/2157025070/>

Students will watch PBS documentary “Radioactive Wolves” and use this information to construct brief arguments/responses to three statements. Students must form an opinion about each statement and respond, citing some evidence from the documentary to show what they have learned about the impact of nuclear power plant meltdowns and extreme radiation exposure on biological fauna.

Present students with these statements before the documentary, so that they can be aware of the statements which they need to respond, and may jot down notes if they wish. They do not need to write their responses during the documentary. Teacher should encourage students to jot down brief notes to help them construct their responses, but to wait to respond to each statement until after the viewing of the documentary.

The statements are as follows:

1. Nuclear power disasters have little impact on animal populations.
2. If humans do not disturb an environment, then that environment will completely return to its natural state.
3. The reintroduction of animals into the exclusion zone in Chernobyl was a good decision.

Students should construct 5-sentence minimum responses to each of these statements. If pressed for time, teachers can have students choose their statement.

Cite for response statements: biologycorner.com