

**The Baby Lycaon (African Wild Dog)
& the Baby Jackal**
Animal Babies: Born Wild Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis: Follows the antics of mischievous lycaon babies as they play and share their common lunch. Their parents are very observant of their offspring, constantly on the watch to protect their young from predators. A second savanna animal, the baby jackal is protected by its mother but learns to hunt very early. Most of the time, he and his brothers and sisters play with one another but they also love to be groomed by their mother.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify and describe the main characteristics of lycaons and jackals.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe how the baby animals are cared for by their parents.
- Objective 3)** Students will understand the concept of “family” in the animal and the human world.
- Objective 4)** Students will understand that all animals are defenseless when they are born but that they all learn to survive against predators and support themselves by finding their own sources of food.
- Objective 5)** Students will understand that for animals and for humans, learning is part of growth.
- Objective 6)** Students will understand that all babies grow to become adult members of their species.

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) What is a lycaon? Where are these animals found?
- 2) What is a savanna? What kinds of plants and trees grow there?
- 3) What is camouflage?
- 4) Are jackals vicious animals?

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Lycaon, exhausted, nursing, predators, prey, protection, groomed, den, jackal, scurry, vultures, despairing, advantage, savanna, greedy, rambunctious, hyena

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) How do you know that the lycaon babies were very hungry?
- 2) Why are the brothers and sisters so rough with one another?
- 3) How do lycaon mothers and fathers protect their babies from predators?

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- 4) What was the purpose of the baby jackals' play with one another?
- 5) What animal is an enemy of the jackal?
- 6) Why do the baby jackals love to be groomed by their mother?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Write a story about a baby lycaon who can't find any food.
- 2) Imagine that you are a lycaon mother. Write a story about what you plan to do to find food for your new family.
- 3) You are a jackal mother who spies a hyena in the tall grass. What are you going to do to protect your family?
- 4) Write a letter to a friend telling the friend why you like living in the African savanna. Tell them what you don't like about the savanna.
- 5) On the Internet or in the school media center, find further information about either of these animals. Present the information in an entertaining way to classmates who think there is nothing more to learn about lycaons or jackals.

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