

# White Fang

Jack London

1. Read "A note about This story". Then, Fill in the boxes with information contained In that note.

Yukon

Dawson  
River

California

Gold Rush

## A Note About This Story

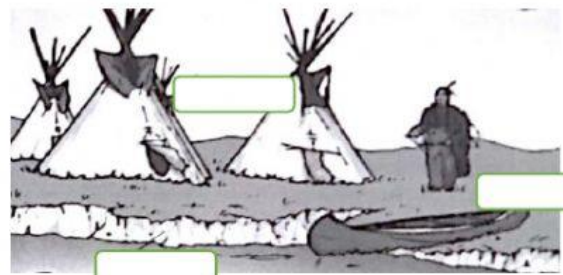
This story is about a wolf called White Fang. White Fang was born in the wild, in an area called the Yukon. This area is in the north-west of Canada. There are lots of mountains and rivers in the Yukon and the land is covered with forest. You can travel for hours without seeing people or houses. Winters in the Yukon are very cold and very long. In some areas the ground is frozen all year. Many animals live in the wild there—for example, bears, moose, porcupines, weasels and squirrels, as well as wolves.

*White Fang* was written in 1906. At that time many Indians—native or first peoples—lived in the Yukon. They lived there long before white people. The Indians killed moose and rabbits, and they caught fish. They lived in camps and slept in big tents. The tents were called tepees. The Indians traveled around in long boats called canoes. Or they traveled on sleds pulled by dogs.

In 1886, some people found gold by the Klondike River near Dawson City. When other people heard about this, they all wanted to find gold. So thousands of people came to the Klondike River. This was known as the "gold rush". These people had to travel a long way. They had to make boats to go down the Yukon River to Dawson City. But most people did not find any gold.

White Fang's master, Weedon Scott, was one of these people. He came to the Klondike River from the United States. He knew a lot about mining so he came to help people find gold. But Scott's home was in California, in the United States. California has long, hot summers and many people live there. It is very different from the Yukon.

2. things in the story. Label the pictures



## 3. Chapter 1- The Cave in the Riverbank

For many days, the she-wolf and her mate hunted for food together. But after a time, the she-wolf became less interested in hunting. She was looking for something. She spent a lot of time searching under fallen trees. She looked under rocks and in caves in the riverbanks. But she could not find what she wanted.

She was a large wolf—almost five feet long. Her coat was mainly gray, but sometimes it looked a little red. She was getting heavier every day, and she could only run slowly now. Once, when she was running after a rabbit, she suddenly stopped. Then she lay down and rested. Her mate came to her and licked her neck gently. But she growled at him angrily, and he moved away. She was often angry now. But her mate was more patient than ever, and more caring.

Finally the she-wolf found what she was looking for. It was a few miles up a small frozen river. The she-wolf was running behind her mate when she came to the high river bank. She slowed down and walked over to it. There was a small cave in the bank. She went inside it. The entrance to the cave was very small, but inside there was a large round space. It was dry and comfortable. The she-wolf walked around the cave carefully. Then she chose a place in the middle and lay down. She felt pleased and happy.

The she-wolf's mate watched her from the cave's entrance. When she lay down, he wagged his tail from side to side. Then he too lay down in the cave's entrance, and slept.

*Adrian*



Outside the cave, the April sun was shining brightly on the snow. Spring was coming, and everything was beginning to grow.

After a while, the she-wolf's mate woke up. He got up and went over to his mate. He wanted her to get up. But she just growled at him. So her mate went out alone into the bright sunshine. He went up the frozen river. The snow was deep and soft, and traveling was difficult. He was gone for eight hours, but he did not find any food. He came back even hungrier.



When he arrived back, he stopped in surprise at the entrance to the cave. There were strange sounds coming from inside. They were not the sounds of his mate. As he moved carefully into the cave, the she-wolf growled. She did not want him near her, so he lay down in the cave's entrance. But he listened to those strange quiet noises for a

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was starting to eat meat, too. And he was starting to explore his world. The gray cub's world stopped at the walls of the cave. But he soon noticed that one of the walls was different from the others. This was the cave's entrance. Light came from it. The gray cub and his brothers and sisters started to move towards the light. But their mother always pushed them back.

Like most animals of the Wild, the gray cub found out about hunger early in his life. One day there was no more meat. And then, after a time, the cubs found that their mother had no milk left for them. At first, they cried. But mostly they just slept. There were no more little fights, and no more growling. And there was no more moving towards the cave's entrance. The little cubs just slept.

The cubs' father did not know what to do. He traveled a long way looking for food. The she-wolf, too, left her cubs and went out hunting. At last they found meat again. The gray cub started eating, and slowly he came back to life. But he found that his world was different now. He only had one sister left. The other cubs were dead. His little body grew as he ate meat. But for his sister, the food came too late.

little while. And soon, the she-wolf's mate fell asleep.

When morning came, the she-wolf's mate heard the strange noises once more. He wanted to see where they were coming from. In the morning light, he could just see five strange little animals. They were lying next to the she-wolf, between her legs. They made tiny crying noises, and their eyes were shut. The she-wolf's mate was surprised.

The she-wolf growled at him. Like all mother wolves, she somehow knew that there was danger. Some father wolves ate their baby cubs. The she-wolf had a strong fear of this. Because of that fear, she would not let her mate near his cubs.

But there was no danger. The she-wolf's mate, too, had a strong feeling. He knew what he had to do. Turning his back on his new-born family, he went out to hunt for meat.

The she-wolf's mate was gone all day. But when he came back, he brought meat for the she-wolf. When she saw this, the she-wolf licked her mate lightly on the neck. She growled at him again when he went near the cubs. But her growl was less angry now. He was doing what a wolf-father should do. And she no longer felt so afraid of him.

Four of the cubs all had the slightly red coat of their mother. But one cub was gray, like his father. The gray cub was a fierce little animal—he was strong and ready to fight. His brothers and sisters were, too. After all, their parents and grandparents were meat-killers and meat-eaters. But the gray cub was the fiercest of all the cubs. He growled louder than the others. He was the first one that pushed over another cub with his paw. And he was the first one that pulled at another cub's ear with his teeth.

For the first month of his life, the gray cub spent most of the time sleeping. But soon he could see quite well, and he stayed awake longer. He still drank his mother's milk, but he

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Then something else happened. The gray cub no longer saw his father sleeping in the cave's entrance. The gray cub did not know why his father never came back. But the she-wolf did. She followed his smell up the river. It led her past the lynx's lair, or resting place. A little later, she found her mate. He was dead, and there was not much left of his body. But there were many signs of his terrible fight with the lynx.

After that, when the she-wolf went hunting, she never hunted near the lynx's lair. She knew that the lynx was a fierce, angry animal. A pack of wolves could easily frighten a lynx. But for a wolf on its own, lynxes were very dangerous.

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#### 4. Chapter 1- Answer the questions.

1. She-wolf became less interested in hunting. Why?

2. What was she-wolf looking for? \_\_\_\_\_
3. Why was she looking for that place? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Why did father-wolf wait at the entrance and she growled at him?  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Why did she stop being angry with him? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How many cubs lived in the end? , why? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What appened to his father? \_\_\_\_\_