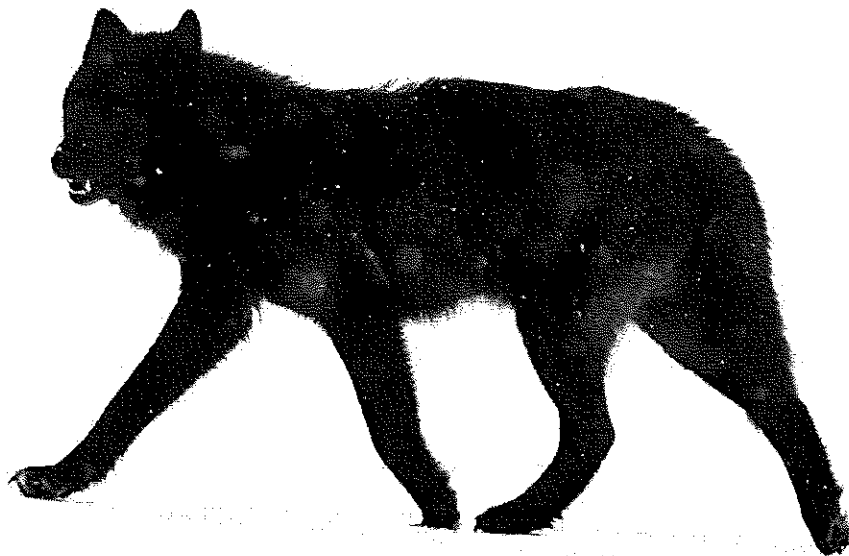


NEWSELA

Lumber jobs at odds with rare wolves' survival in Alaska forest

By Los Angeles Times, adapted by Newsela staff on 11.08.15

Word Count **784**

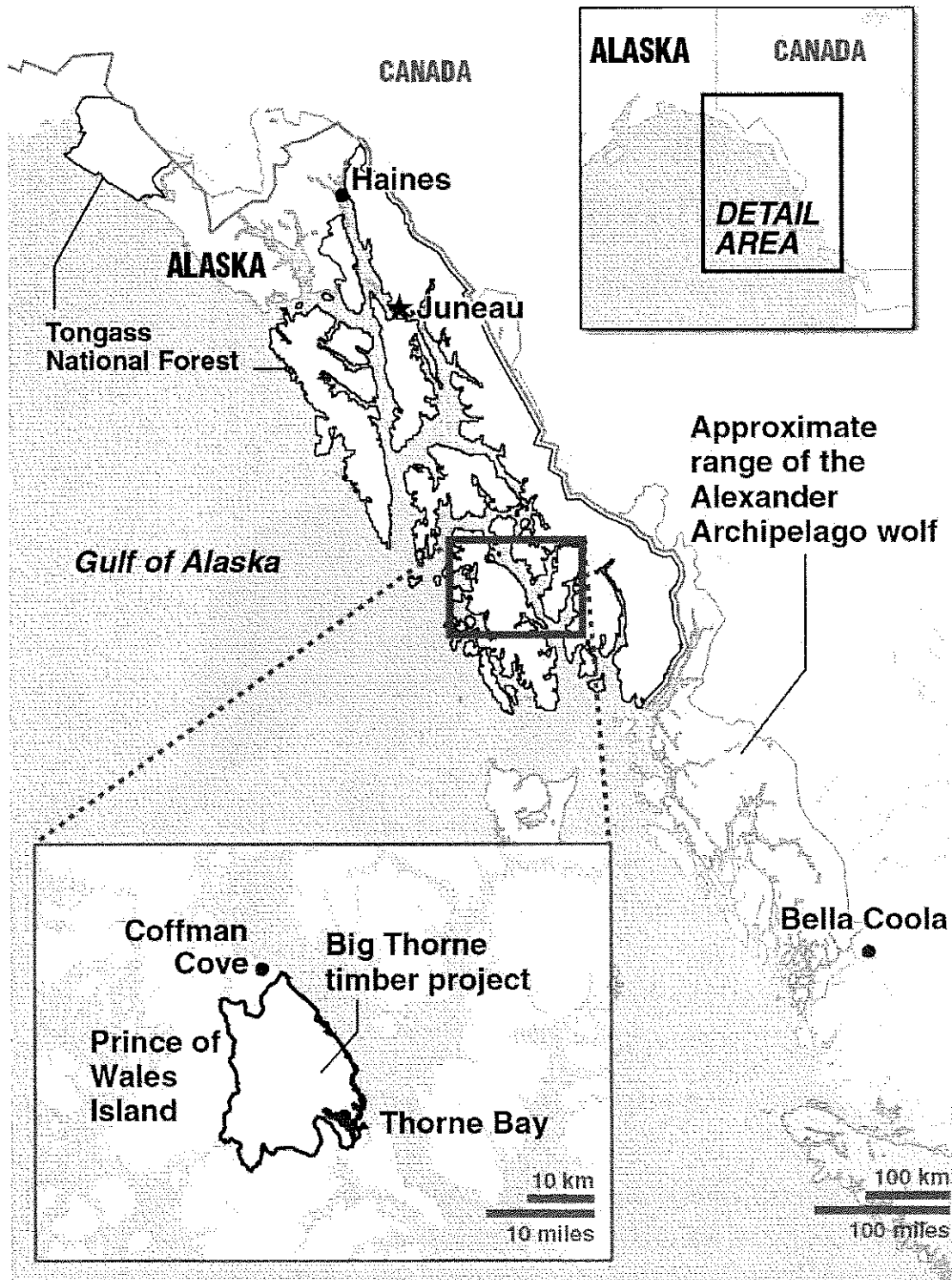


The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to decide by the end of the year whether to list the Alexander Archipelago wolf, pictured here, as an endangered species. Photo: AP/Steve Quinn

The story of the wolves, the island and the ancient forest in Alaska began a long time ago.

This spring, with the approval of the U.S. Forest Service, loggers began cutting thousands of acres of old-growth evergreens in Tongass National Forest in Prince of Wales Island in Alaska. An old-growth forest has developed over a long time without significant destruction from fires or logging. Some of the giant spruce, hemlock and cedar are 800 years old and more than 200 feet tall. It is one of the largest and most controversial timber sales in two decades.

State and federal officials say the sale is essential to the livelihoods of people on the island. The last remaining large sawmill there employs about 50 people.



Sources: U.S. Department of the Interior Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, MapBox, OpenStreetMap
Graphic: Lorena Iñiguez Elebee, Los Angeles Times/TNS

Loss Of Trees Means Loss Of Wolves

Yet the Alexander Archipelago wolf population has been declining. And cutting down more trees is expected to make them die off even faster. The animals make their dens in the roots of very large trees and prey on deer that live in the forest. Roads built for logging cause problems too. They divide animal habitats and make it easier for hunters to shoot and trap wolves, sometimes illegally.

Just 20 years ago, Prince of Wales was home to about 300 wolves. Now, state officials estimate that as few as 50 remain — about one wolf for every person working in the sawmill.

Animals' Fates In Service's Hands

By the end of this year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is expected to make a final decision on whether the wolf should be listed as an endangered species. Meanwhile, logging continues, and so does hunting — of both wolves and the deer that they eat.

"They're logging up a storm out there," said Owen Graham. He is the head of the Alaska Forest Association, which represents timber businesses. "They're trying to get wood ahead of the winter."

But all that could come to an end if the wolf is declared endangered. Government officials could reduce or stop logging and hunting if they decide that the wolves are becoming extinct.

Phasing In New Growth, Saving The Old

At the heart of the debate in southeast Alaska is the so-called Tongass transition plan. The Forest Service has described it as a plan to help the timber business change. It provides just enough old-growth timber to keep the region's few remaining sawmills running. Meanwhile, the industry will wait for younger trees to grow and then switch over to those.

The timber industry in southeast Alaska is a fraction of what it was before new federal regulations began limiting old-growth logging in the 1990s. There are fewer than 300 logging and sawmill jobs in the region, compared with the 3,500 workers two decades ago. While the industry has shrunk, others, including tourism and fishing, have grown.

Forrest Cole is the Tongass forest supervisor. In 2013 he announced the Big Thorne Project, the name of the current logging project on Prince of Wales. By cutting down old growth trees, sawmills get a regular supply of timber. The project gives the Forest Service and the timber industry "the breathing space" needed to prepare for switching over to young-growth timber.

In other words, the timber industry can cut down a limited number of old trees now while it waits for younger ones to grow.

Plan Falls Short, Lumber Industry Says

Lumber mills on Prince of Wales were built to cut larger, older trees. The younger, second-growth trees are shipped to Asia and milled there more cheaply. The Forest Service has said Big Thorne would provide enough old-

leaders say there may be enough timber to last only three or four years. The mill on Prince of Wales is seen as important because it provides year-round work, while logging jobs are seasonal.

"We don't need a lot of it," Graham said of the old-growth forest. He noted that the Forest Service says 90 percent of old growth in the Tongass remains standing. "We just need enough to get us through these next 30 years, maybe 2 (percent) or 3 percent of it. There's plenty of room to have a few sawmills with year-round jobs and still have this last old-growth forest out there untouched."

Conservation experts say logging old-growth trees to save sawmills is misguided. It puts wildlife and the forest at risk to preserve a few dozen timber jobs.

Larry Edwards works for the environmental organization Greenpeace. He said there must be a way to change over to cutting down new growth trees "in a way that makes sense" instead of destroying the wolves and the environment.

Quiz

- 1 Read the third paragraph of the article.

State and federal officials say the sale is essential to the livelihoods of people on the island. The last remaining large sawmill there employs about 50 people.

Which word from the paragraph shows that logging is very important to some people?

- (A) officials
 - (B) federal
 - (C) essential
 - (D) remaining
- 2 Read the following sentence from the section "Phasing In New Growth, Saving the Old".

The timber industry in southeast Alaska is a fraction of what it was before new federal regulations began limiting old-growth logging in the 1990s.

The author uses the phrase "a fraction" to mean..

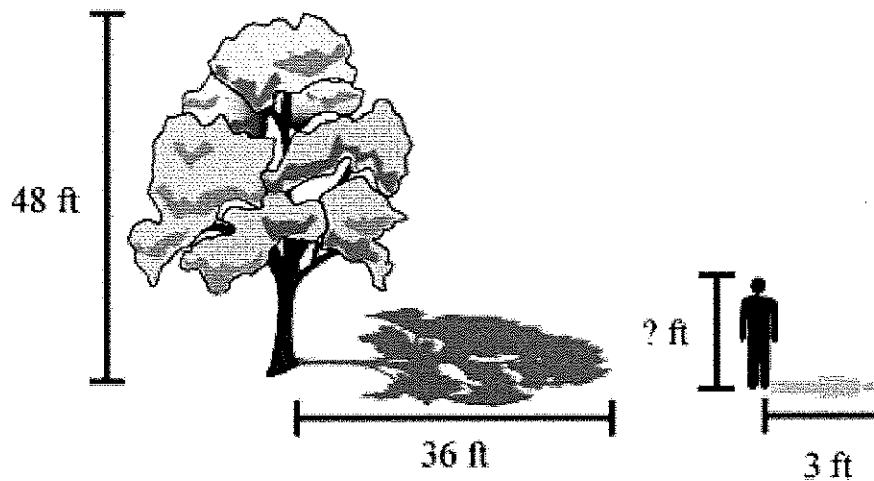
- (A) a similar amount
 - (B) a surprising amount
 - (C) an unusual amount
 - (D) a tiny amount
- 3 What is the MAIN advantage of including a map with this article?
- (A) It shows that the wolves' territory only occupies a small section of Alaska.
 - (B) It shows that the sawmill occupies only a small part of the wolves' territory.
 - (C) It helps readers visualize the location of Alaska in relation to Canada.
 - (D) It helps readers visualize the location of various places discussed in the article.

- 4 Look at the large box at the bottom of the map. Which excerpt from the article BEST explains why the map features the area shown in this box?
- (A) This spring, with the approval of the U.S. Forest Service, loggers began cutting thousands of acres of old-growth evergreens in Tongass National Forest in Prince of Wales Island in Alaska.
 - (B) Yet the Alexander Archipelago wolf population has been declining. And cutting down more trees is expected to make them die off even faster. Roads built for logging cause problems too.
 - (C) At the heart of the debate in southeast Alaska is the so-called Tongass transition plan. The Forest Service has described it as a plan to help the timber business change.
 - (D) There are fewer than 300 logging and sawmill jobs in the region, compared with the 3,500 workers two decades ago. While the industry has shrunk, others, including tourism and fishing, have grown.

Name: _____ Date: _____

NTI 6th Grade Math Day 1**Question 1 of 10**

A tree that is 48 feet tall casts a shadow that is 36 feet long. A child is standing next to the tree casts a shadow that is 3 feet long.



Which proportion should be used to find the height of the child?

- A. $\frac{48}{36} = \frac{3}{?}$
- B. $\frac{48}{36} = \frac{?}{3}$
- C. $\frac{48}{?} = \frac{3}{36}$
- D. $\frac{?}{48} = \frac{36}{3}$

Question 2 of 10

Which set of ratios do not form a proportion?

- A. $\frac{3}{4}$ and $\frac{6}{9}$
- B. $\frac{2}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{6}$
- C. $\frac{2}{3}$ and $\frac{6}{9}$
- D. $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{4}{12}$

Question 3 of 10

In the game Scrabble, players use small square tiles; each tile has one letter on it. During the game, they use the tiles to spell words. The number of tiles containing each vowel is shown:
A: 9 E: 12 I: 9 O: 8 U: 4

Which of these ratios is larger than the number 1?

- A. the ratio of the number of As to the number of Es
- B. the ratio of the number of As to the number of Is
- C. the ratio of the number of Is to the number of Os
- D. the ratio of the number of Us to the number of Es

Question 4 of 10

Which of the following situations can be represented as a rate?

- A. Janine drives 110 miles in 2 hours.
- B. Annie has 10 sweaters. 2 of the sweaters are black.
- C. Katie's bus stop is the 3rd stop out of 8.
- D. Jada counted 42 girls and 31 boys in the auditorium.

Question 5 of 10

A yard of ribbon costs \$6.99.

How much will 2 feet cost?

1 yard = 3 feet

- A. \$20.97
- B. \$6.99
- C. \$4.66
- D. \$2.33

Question 6 of 10

Constance had a doctor's appointment 62 miles from her house. Because traffic is heavy in the mornings, she knew it would take her 1 hour and 20 minutes to arrive at the doctor's office.

What is her average rate of speed?

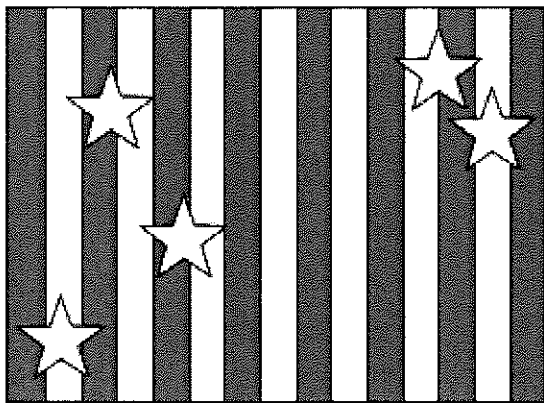
- A. 47 mph
- B. 55 mph
- C. 62 mph
- D. 74 mph

Question 7 of 10

Abby's fitness plan recommends that she jog 16 miles a week. She jogs a mile in 7 minutes and 30 seconds.

Which statement best describes the amount of time Abby will spend jogging if she follows her fitness plan?

- A. Abby will be tired if she follows the plan.
- B. Abby will jog 120 minutes a week.
- C. Abby will jog 112 minutes a week.
- D. Abby will jog at least 3 hours a week.

Question 8 of 10

What is the ratio of stripes to stars on the flag above?

- A. 1:3
- B. 2:3
- C. 3:2
- D. 3:1

Question 9 of 10

Robby only wears yellow & orange shirts. The ratio of yellow & orange shirts in his closet is 4:3.

If Robby has 9 orange shirts, how many yellow ones does he have?

- A. 3 yellow shirts
- B. 4 yellow shirts
- C. 9 yellow shirts
- D. 12 yellow shirts

Question 10 of 10

Which is the better buy?

- A. 6 candles at \$15
- B. 8 candles at \$18
- C. 10 candles at \$26
- D. 12 candles at \$28