

Adventures with the Apennine Wolf!

Materials You'll Need:

- Colored pencils, crayons, or markers
- White and colored construction paper
- Child-safe scissors (with adult supervision)
- Glue stick
- Pictures or online videos of Italian wolves and the Apennine Mountains (for reference only, parents to show)
- A world map or globe
- Optional: Playdough for sculpting
- Optional: Ingredients for 'Wolf Paw Print' cookies (sugar cookies, frosting, chocolate chips)

Let's Begin Our Wolf Adventure! (Approx. 45-60 minutes)

Part 1: Hello, Italian Wolf! (10-15 minutes)

Have you ever heard a wolf howl? Aaaooooooo! Today, we're going on an exciting adventure to learn all about a very special kind of wolf that lives far away in the beautiful mountains of Italy! This wolf is called the Italian Wolf, or sometimes the Apennine Wolf, because it lives in the Apennine Mountains.

Parent note: This is a great time to show your child some pictures or short, child-friendly video clips of Italian wolves and the Apennine Mountains to bring them to life. You can search online for 'Italian wolf' or 'Apennine wolf'.

What do you already know about wolves? Let's share some ideas!

Part 2: Discovering the Italian Wolf (15-20 minutes)

Italian wolves are amazing creatures. Let's learn some super cool facts about them:

- **Where do they live?** Italian wolves live mainly in the Apennine Mountains, which run down the middle of Italy, like a bumpy backbone! Can you find Italy on a map or globe? Let's trace the Apennine Mountains. Their home has forests and rocky areas.
- **What do they look like?** They are a bit smaller than the big grey wolves you might see in stories about North America. Their fur is often a mix of grey and brownish-yellow, which helps them blend into their mountain home.
- **What do they eat?** They are carnivores, which means they eat meat. They hunt animals like deer, wild boar, and sometimes smaller animals like hares. They are very skilled hunters!
- **How do they live?** Italian wolves live in family groups called packs. A pack is like a wolf family, with parents and their pups. They work together to hunt and take care of each other.
- **Why are they important?** Wolves play an important role in nature. By hunting, they help keep the numbers of other animals in balance, which keeps the forests healthy. They are like nature's park rangers!

Question Time! Can you tell me one thing that makes the Italian wolf special?

Part 3: Creative Wolf Workshop! (15-20 minutes)

Now it's time to get creative and show what you've learned about the Italian wolf! Choose one of these fun activities:

- **Draw or Paint a Wolf:** Create a picture of an Italian wolf in its mountain home. What colors

will you use for the wolf? What will the mountains look like?

- **Wolf Habitat Diorama:** If you have a small box (like a shoebox), you can create a mini scene of where an Italian wolf lives. Use paper, twigs, or playdough to make mountains, trees, and your wolf!
- **Write a Wolf Story:** Imagine you are an Italian wolf for a day. What adventures would you have? Write or tell a short story about your day. What do you see, hear, and do?
- **Wolf Craft:** You could make a wolf mask from a paper plate, or wolf puppets from paper bags or socks!
- **Playdough Wolf:** Use playdough to sculpt your own Italian wolf. What shape will its ears be? How long will its tail be?

Parent note: Encourage your child to talk about their creation and why they designed it the way they did, connecting it back to what they learned about the wolf and its habitat.

Part 4: Wolf Prowl and Howl! (5-10 minutes)

Let's move like wolves!

- **Wolf Howl:** First, let's practice our best wolf howl. Take a deep breath and... Aaaaaooooooooo!
- **Wolf Walk:** Now, let's pretend we are Italian wolves moving quietly through the Apennine Mountains. How would a wolf walk on its four paws? How would it sniff the air for scents? How would it listen with its sharp ears?
- **Playful Pounce:** Wolves also love to play! Let's do a playful pounce like a wolf pup!

Part 5: Adventure Wrap-up (5 minutes)

Wow, what an amazing journey learning about the Italian wolf! Let's think about what we discovered:

- What was your favorite fact about the Italian wolf?
- Can you remember where Italian wolves live? (Point to Italy on the map again!)
- Show me your fantastic wolf creation! Tell me one thing about it.

Italian wolves are beautiful and important animals. Learning about them helps us understand why it's important to protect them and their homes. You did a fantastic job being a wolf explorer today!

Optional Extension: Wolf Paw Print Cookies!

If you'd like an extra treat, you can make 'Wolf Paw Print' cookies! Use round sugar cookies (store-bought or homemade). Spread some frosting on top. Then, use chocolate chips or small candies to make a paw print pattern: one larger oval shape for the main pad, and four smaller oval shapes for the toes!