

Name: _____ Date: _____

Go to Scope
Online to listen
to the words
and definitions
read aloud!

Paired Texts Vocabulary

"How the Wolf Became the Dog"

- 1. ancestor (AN-ses-ter)** *noun*; Ancestors are family members from the past, such as your great-grandparents and all of your relatives who came before them. Your ancestors are the people from whom you descended.

Ancestor can also refer to an early version of something. For example, one of the modern computer's ancestors was a machine known as "Baby." It ran its first program in 1948 and could do only basic math problems.

- 2. game (geym)** *noun*; *Game* has a range of meanings. As it is used in "How the Wolf Became the Dog," *game* means "wild animals that are hunted for food or sport."

- 3. generation (jen-uh-REY-shuhn)** *noun*; A generation is a group of people born and living in the same time period. You and your friends belong to the same generation. Your grandparents, your parents, and you belong to three different generations.

Generation can also refer to a stage in the development of technology. The first generation of iPhones came out in 2007. Future generations of spaceships may allow us to travel farther into space.

- 4. millennia (mih-LEN-ee-uh)** *noun*; A millennium (mih-LEN-ee-uhm) is a period of 1,000 years. *Millennia* is the plural form of millennium.

- 5. utilize (YOO-tuh-lahyz)** *verb*; To utilize something is to make use of it—in particular, to give it a new use that it may not originally have had. So you wouldn't say you utilized your toothbrush to brush your teeth; you would say that you *used* your toothbrush to brush your teeth. But you could say that you utilized an old toothbrush to scrub the grout in the bathtub.

- 6. venture (VEN-chur)** *noun or verb*; A venture is a risky undertaking. It is often used to refer to the start of a new business that is not guaranteed to succeed.

To venture is to start something or go somewhere that involves risk. You might, for example, venture into a dark, creepy basement.

- 7. wary (WAIR-ee)** *adjective*; If you feel wary, you feel cautious or on your guard against possible trouble or danger. Young children are often taught to be wary of strangers.

"How the Dog Became Part of the Family"

1. scientific basis (sahy-uhn-TIF-ik BEY-sis) *phrase*; *Basis* means the "base or foundation upon which something is supported." *Scientific* means "based on the methods of science."

The scientific basis of something is the science behind it or the scientific reasons for it. For example, exercise makes people feel good. The scientific basis of exercise making people feel good is that physical activity releases chemicals in the brain that cause positive feelings.

2. unconditional (uhn-kuhn-DISH-uh-nul) *adjective*; A condition is a requirement for something to happen. For example, if Dave's parents tell him that he is allowed to go to the movies on the condition that he clean his room, Dave's permission to attend the movies is conditional—it depends on whether or not he cleans his room.

The prefix *un-* means "not," so something that is *unconditional* does not have any conditions or limitations on it. If someone has unconditional love for you, their love does not depend on anything; they will love you regardless of what you do or anything that happens.

3. vital (VAHYT-ul) *adjective*; *Vital* has several meanings:

1. related to or necessary for life continuing, as in "The heart is a vital organ."
2. full of life and energy, as in "At 86, Janet is still an active and vital woman."
3. extremely important or necessary, as in "Mark is a vital part of the team" or "The detective discovered a vital clue to solving the mystery."

Directions: Below and on the back of this page, list any other words from the articles whose definitions you are not sure about. For each word, use context clues to try to figure out the meaning. Then look up the word in a few different dictionaries. Discuss the meaning of the word with your teacher or another adult. Then write a definition for the word and one example sentence.

Paired Texts Vocabulary Practice

Directions: Rewrite each sentence below using one of the words in the box. There is one word you will not use.

wary	millennia	vital	game	generation	ancestors
------	-----------	-------	------	------------	-----------

1. Ada's family came to America from Germany in the 1700s.

2. To protect your privacy, it is very important that you keep your computer passwords secret.

3. Some volcanoes can be inactive for centuries or even thousands of years.

4. People born at different times often have different tastes in music.

5. Native Americans used bows and arrows, spears, and blow darts to hunt for wild animals.

Directions: In each pair of boldfaced words, underline the word that best completes the sentence.

6. My coupon for a free video game at Game Giant is **unconditional/vital**—I can use it on any date, for any game, at any Game Giant store.

7. The author's new book explains the **scientific basis/game** for his ideas about hypnosis.

8. We **utilized/ventured** the large empty space on our school's roof for the event.

9. The puppies never **venture/utilize** far from their mother.

10. "Are you sure it is safe to enter?" Peter asked, with a **wary/vital** look on his face.