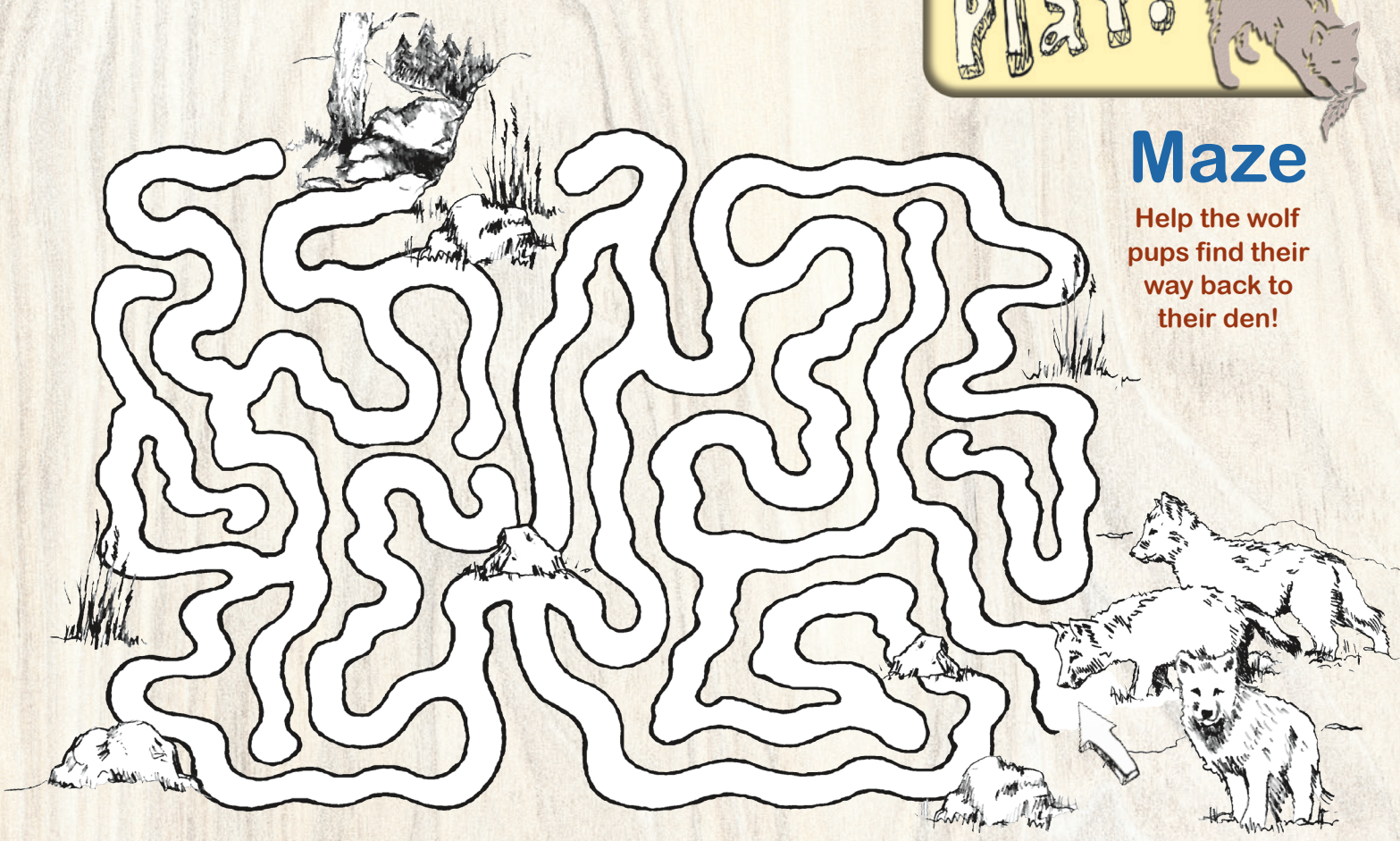


Wild Kids

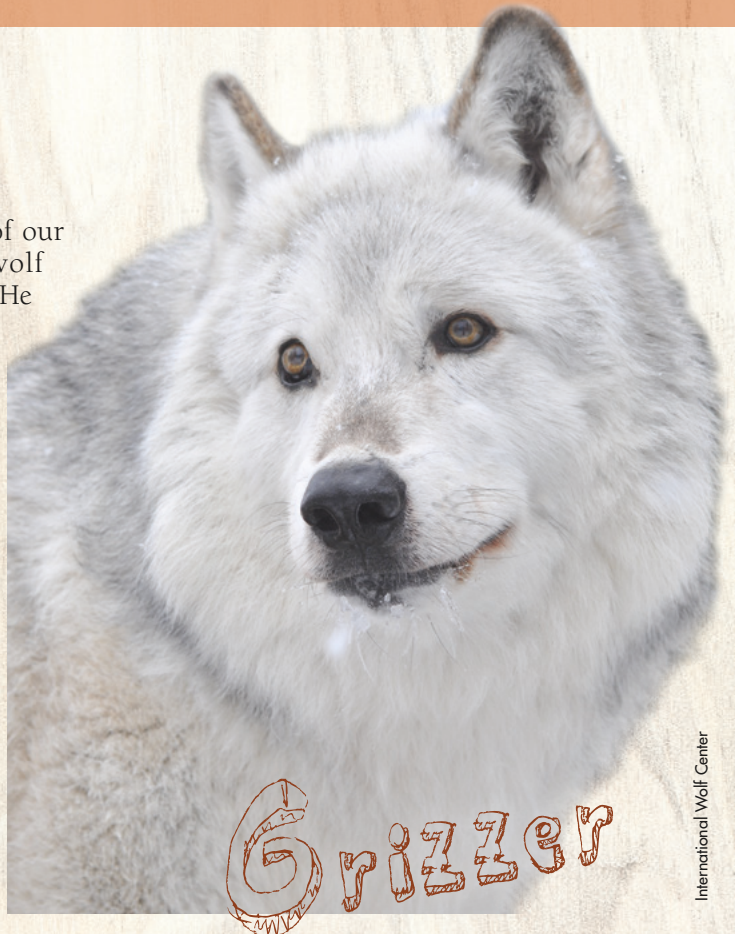


Wolf pups open their eyes at 12 to 14 days of age—about the same time they become coordinated enough to stand and walk. Once the pups have explored their den, they slowly begin exploring beyond it. Often the boldest pup leads the way, closely followed by a sibling or two. When startled, pups scramble back to the safety of the den.



Maze

Help the wolf pups find their way back to their den!



Grizzer

International Wolf Center

The “old man” of our ambassador wolf pack is Grizzer. He is 12 years old, which is old for a wolf, and he was born on May 5, 2004. Grizzer is a Great Plains subspecies of the gray wolf.

Grizzer is now retired, meaning he doesn't live in the main enclosure with the rest of the ambassador wolves. In a wolf pack, there is always a contest between the wolves to see who can “move up the ladder” to dominant status. Older wolves can't compete for status anymore. If the wolf in the wild loses a dominance contest, it can simply run away. When they are in captivity, though, we separate older wolves for their own safety. The enclosure for retired wolves is next to the ambassador wolves' enclosure, so Grizzer continues to be near the other wolves.

For the last few months, Grizzer has been watching and listening to the construction of our new wolf lab. The crashing, sawing, buzzing and pounding, and the voices of the construction team are all new to him, which makes him a little anxious. Grizzer is ready for the wolf-lab project to be finished so he can get back to his quiet retirement! ■

Crossword

Hint: 2 word answers will have a blank square between the words!

Across

- 2. Plural of wolf
- 3. The month of the year that Wolf pups are normally born.
- 5. All of the pups born during a single birth to an adult female wolf.
- 6. The wolf is a meat-eater or a _____
- 7. Camouflage color of the adult Arctic Wolf
- 8. A family of wolves that lives and works together to hunt for food and take care of the pups. It usually consists of a breeding male and female and their offspring.
- 10. An above ground area, usually open and near water, where pups are taken when they are old enough to leave the birth den
- 12. A shelter, often a small cave or hole dug out of the ground, to protect the breeding female and her young pups from weather and other animals.

Down

- 1. Pregnancy – The period between fertilization and birth. For a wolf this period is 62 - 63 days.
- 4. The _____ wolf lives on a diet of caribou, musk ox, hares and lemmings.
- 9. One of the sounds wolves make to communicate.
- 11. Wolves are impressive diggers. A wolf _____ may extend twenty feet into a bank.

Answers: Across 2. wolves 3. May 5. litter 6. carnivore 7. white 8. pack 10. rendezvous site 12. den Down 1. gestation period 4. arctic 9. howl 11. den