

Is your dog's DNA hiding a wild secret?

After you've watched the video about Dr. Carly Ameen's research, think about the following questions:

1. Why is it important for scientists to know the timing of the split between dogs and wolves?
2. Dr. Ameen discusses how her research has been complicated by wolf culling and why these practices eliminate genetic information that is helpful to science. Why is genetic information and genetic diversity (but not genetic isolation) important for wild populations?
3. Is there a modern-day species that you would like to compare to its ancient ancestor? Perhaps a Siberian tiger with a saber-tooth cat? Or an African savanna elephant and a woolly mammoth? Why would you choose those species? What would you hope to learn through the investigation?