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Teach, Empower and Enjoy Your Children.

A.R.T. - Children's Needs Come First The Wolves of Yellowstone



Since the 1800's, people thought the wolves near and in Yellowstone National Park were a problem. One reason for this was the wolves were seen as a danger to the nearby livestock and agriculture. As a result, the wolves were almost killed to extinction.

However, eliminating the wolves caused many unforeseen problems to the ecosystem. Without the wolves, there were too many grazing animals which began to eat the plants faster than they could grow. This forced animals to leave the area due to a lack of food, or be over hunted because there was no place to hide from predators. For example, birds were unable to make nests, and the rabbit population was significantly reduced from their inability to hide from coyotes and foxes. Even the bears' food supply was negatively impacted without the wolves. Additionally, without the wolves as the biggest predator in Yellowstone National Park, the elk were not afraid to hang around the rivers causing the river banks to deteriorate impacting fish and other wildlife.

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With all these damaging changes in the ecosystem, experts saw the error made in eliminating the wolves, and in 1995 wolves were reintroduced back into Yellowstone National Park. Since they have been back, the ecosystem has rebalanced itself. For example, the return of the wolves caused the riverbanks to return to normal, and the river system recovered because the elk had a predator to keep their population in check. The leftovers from the wolves' meals helped other scavenger animals find food too. Additionally, grass and other vegetation were no longer being eaten faster than the plants could grow, enabling more food for the herbivores, and nest materials for the birds.

This example of the Yellowstone wolves is a warning for us today. The family unit is like an ecosystem. There are those who think they can make changes to the family, or a baby's genetics, which is the code that tells the baby's body how to develop, what color eyes to have, how tall to grow, etc..., but just as with the Yellowstone wolves, we don't fully understand nature. If we try to change one thing, even with the hopes of making it better, we could do great harm.

Think back to all the unintended consequences to the ecosystem when the wolves were removed from Yellowstone. The family is a natural ecosystem, too, and there are



consequences when this ecosystem is disrupted. The research is quite clear; children thrive best when they are born into and reared by their married, biological mother and father. Adoption is society's response to a tragic situation where the biological parents can no longer care for their child, but we should not seek to create situations where children are stripped of their biological mother and father.

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Continuing the conversation with Older Children:

Consider the quotes below and use the following questions to guide your discussion.

What happens to many of the human embryos created via assisted reproductive technologies?

"While it is possible to perform IVF, [an assisted reproductive technology] without violating children's rights, those outcomes are exceptionally rare. In reality, only about 7 percent of lab-created embryos are successfully brought to term. Most either dwell eternally frozen in the lab, are deemed "non-viable" ... and thawed for discard, won't survive the transfer from freezer to womb, or are aborted or "selectively reduced" if too many embryos implant."

<https://thembeforeus.com/shocking-new-york-times-article-illuminates-that-in-vitro-fertilization-means-babies-built-to-order/>

What other things might a couple consider before making the decision to use IVF?

Although IVF has been a great blessing to couples who experience infertility, it is often the case that not enough consideration is given to how these embryos, whose young lives began at conception, might not be implanted and thus given a chance to grow to term. These little embryos could either be frozen, indefinitely, destroyed or perhaps 'donated' to someone other than the biological mother and father, creating a situation where that future child will never be with their biological parents.

"The industry's motivation to force-feed fertility, regardless of the risks posed to the baby, should concern us all. The entire heart of the industry needs to be redirected to keep the long term well-being of the child at the center of study and "innovation." Whatever advances are made in the name of helping infertile couples, they cannot come at the expense of children's rights and health."

<https://thembeforeus.com/ivf-health-costs-to-children/>

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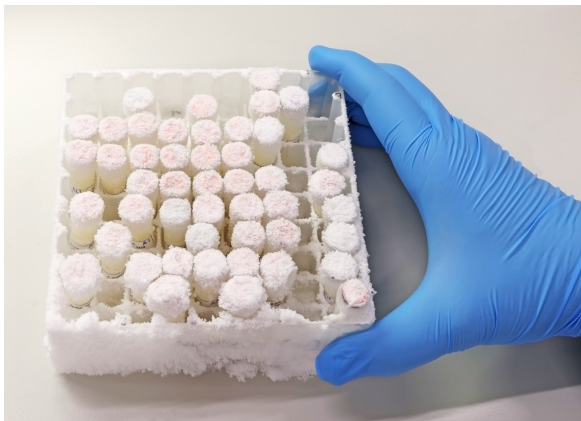
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Consider this statistic:

"Approximately 1.7 million humans have died during the process of IVF, and another one million are currently frozen in the United States."

<https://www.liveaction.org/news/abortion-ivf-surrogacy-commodification-paris-hilton/>



Resources:

- <https://defenders.org/blog/2020/03/we-were-wrong-about-wolves-heres-why#:~:text=Wiping%20out%20an%20apex%20predator,to%20be%20a%20major%20mistake.&text=Seventy%20years%20witho,ut%20wolves%20changed,trees%2C%20songbirds%20began%20to%20decline.>
- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/wolves-yellowstone>
- <https://www.nps.gov/yell/learn/nature/wolf-restoration.htm>

