

# NORTH AMERICA



## ***Born to Be Wild* Family Discussion Guide**

### **Program Description**

*NORTH AMERICA: Born to Be Wild* takes viewers on an extraordinary journey through the wildest places in North America—from the snow-capped mountains of the north to the steamy jungles of the south, from the storm-battered plains of America’s heartland to the parched deserts of the west. Up close, we meet an incredible array of wildlife, both familiar and exotic, that lives right here in our backyard. Wolves and whales, snakes and sea turtles, and monkeys and mountain goats are all neighbors in this grand landscape. Through epic cinematography and compelling storytelling, we experience their struggle for survival in this land of extremes.

### **Discussion Questions**

How has the Rocky Mountain goat adapted to survive on the steep slopes of the Rocky Mountains?

How did prehistoric humans and animals arrive in North America? Describe the geological processes that allowed the passage from Asia to North America.

How long is the Rocky Mountain range? How many U.S. states and Canadian provinces contain part of the Rocky Mountains? Name the states and provinces.

Why does the Midwest of the United States experience such extreme weather? How does the region benefit from these weather patterns?

How did mustang horses arrive on the North American continent?

What caused the formation of deserts in the Southwest United States and in Mexico?

Why is Death Valley hotter and drier than other desert areas that are closer to Earth’s equator?

Why do olive ridley sea turtles lay so many eggs? How does this behavior ensure the survival of the species? Why do olive ridley sea turtle parents abandon their nests?

How was the Grand Canyon formed? What river runs through the Grand Canyon? How large is the canyon at its widest and deepest?

For what reasons do animals migrate? Provide three examples of animals that migrate and the reasons for their migrations.

### **At-Home Activity**

To begin the activity, draw a three-column KWL chart on a whiteboard, chart paper, or another location that is accessible to your children. To populate the "K" column, have your children share what they already know about the geography, climate, and wildlife of North America. Tell your children that they will be learning more about the North American continent. Display physical or political maps of the region. Ask your children to share three or four things they would like to learn about North America and write these items in the "W" column of the chart. Next, show the video *NORTH AMERICA: Born to Be Wild*. Tell your children to imagine that they are the owners of a new tour company. They want to give their customers the "Complete North America Experience." Instruct them to use a map of North America to plan a tour that exhibits the most important aspects of the continent's physical geography, climate, and wildlife. The tour should have at least six stops across the continent. The children will then illustrate story frames for each stop on the tour and write a brief paragraph for each stop that describes the unique geographical features, climate, and wildlife represented at the location. If time permits, have your children create a travel brochure for one of the stops on their North America tour. The brochure should include information about the wildlife, geographical features, climate, environment, and interesting facts pertaining to the region. After your children have completed the activity, invite them to record information they have learned from the lesson in the "L" column of the KWL chart.