**AMAZING AMBULATION ADAPATIONS**

**VOCABULARY**

**DIGITS** - fingers and toes

**PLANTIGRADE** - walking on the soles of the feet. Humans and bears, for example, walk on the soles of the feet.

**DIGITIGRADE** - walking on the toes. Members of the dog and cat families walk on their toes. Animals like horses with hard hooves walk on “hardened” toes.

**PLANTIGRADE**

![Plantigrade silhouette](image)

**DIGITIGRADE**

![Digitigrade silhouette](image)

**THINK ABOUT IT ~ TALK ABOUT IT** (Answers on next page!)
What are the advantages of walking on the soles of the feet with heels and toes in contact with the ground?

**DIGITIGRADE**

**THINK ABOUT IT ~ TALK ABOUT IT** (Answers on next page!)
What are the advantages of walking on the toes with the heels elevated off the ground?

**DO SOME OBSERVATIONS!**

The human hand has an opposable thumb. What does this make humans able to do? The canid paw has a fifth digit, but not an opposable thumb.

Bring in some pictures of large dogs. Find some pictures of **RED WOLVES**. Which of the two canids has longer legs in comparison to its body size? Which has a narrower chest? What advantages do long legs and a narrow chest give a canid?

Did you know? The elbows of wolves turn in. The elbows of most domestic dogs turn out. What advantage do inward-turning elbows give the wolf?