

Teacher's Resource Packet

Resources, Information & Worksheets for Four Legged Soldiers Lesson



Check out Four Legged Soldiers! www.fourleggedsoldiers.com For more info on Military Dogs!

Overview

This teacher's packet is to be used in conjunction with lessons surrounding using the book entitled *Four Legged Soldiers* and classroom visits with the author (the classroom excursions are free and available digitally on Skype as well.) Looking to supplement the introduction to the working military dog, the idea behind the experience for classes is to understand and appreciate heroes currently (and previously) serving in the military, including canines.

This packet, along with the book and presentation, is a positive look at how the dogs help American soldiers and how the canines help keep the country safe. All the included words, lessons and images focus on the progressive aspects the military dogs offer during their jobs. Trained to obey their handlers and willing to learn as required, there are dogs working in every military branch of the United States government. Always ranking higher than their handlers, the dogs are heroes to many who know of their sacrifice and service during their working years.

The worksheets offer an opportunity to better comprehend the materials presented, but they may not be right for every class. Please use discretion on what the students you teach would be best suited to complete. Also, feel free to alter, change or add to the worksheets as you see fit to help your students.

As with any good lesson plan, including local resources will have an additional benefit of understanding how dogs work in the military and I strongly encourage it. Consider engaging locally by contacting veteran's groups, recruitment offices and other neighbor resources may offer an additional hands on approach to talk with a dog handler who has served in the forces or meet a retired military dog that served in another country. There are many outreach programs available to schools, teachers and groups that will give an applied perspective of the life of a military dog.

Thank you for your help in spreading the word about the *Four Legged Soldiers* book. Don't forget to pick up a copy so you can use it with this teachers packet.

Jodi Jill
www.fourleggedsoldiers.com

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Other Writing Assignments for Students

Military dogs often have the top skill set of their litter and love to play with balls and toys. Students might be interested in researching other viable aspects of four legged soldiers that are necessary to be part of America's military.

Writing Assignment – Number One

Sense of smell. Dogs are capable of smelling far greater than any human. While people can smell cookies, perfumes and other odors, canines are capable of smelling individual smells that are combined in a plume of odor.

Write a story on how a dog can smell and why dogs can smell light scents that humans typically wouldn't noticed. Researching for answers, the assignment should include a comparison of humans to dog noses and how this helps dogs that work in the military smell chemicals.

Writing Assignment – Number Two

Hearing powers. Dogs can receive a number of sounds that humans aren't able to hear. This means that when a military dog is patrolling an area they could hear someone walking at a distance. This extraordinary quality is one that helps people working in the military.

Write a story on how a dog can hear much better than people. Describe what sounds are heard by the four legged soldiers that wouldn't necessarily be heard by humans. Don't forget to include information on how dog ears can move independently of each other to better pinpoint where a sound is coming from.

Writing Assignment – Number Three

Famous dogs have served in the military. Dogs have been known to serve in the military over the years with the most famous dog being the movie star Rin Tin Tin. Every dog hero has a story of how the dog helped save humans and the brave sacrifices made to help people.

Write a story on a military dog that has saved human lives. Check at your school library, on the web or ask your parents if they know of a famous dog who has served in the military. There are many dogs so choose one that you feel would be interesting and write about their bravery.

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Search a Word

K P L A Y S X N E I Z F
U N I F O R M T N A L K
N I Y F T F F I N S V W
S J G S F B A L L O E Y
F N N I A R T I L D T X
S S I Y R A T I L I M Q
O N J Y G H I S T O R Y
L W V D O G G L E S A I
D O G S R E L D N A H I
I R C R D T B J L F V C
E W U D R J T M W G L N
R C T S M E L L U B T Y

BALL
DOGGLES
DOGS
HANDLER
HISTORY
MILITARY

PLAY
SMELL
SNIFF
SOLDIER
TRAIN
UNIFORM

Military Dog Activity Questions

1. Military dogs are known for their noses! How much better can a dog smell compared to a human? Why? _____

2. What are Doggles? _____

3. Since military dogs don't get paid, how are the dogs rewarded for their work?

4. Who takes care of the military dog when on the job? _____

5. Where do dogs go to work? _____

6. How long does training last before the military dog is ready to start working with his or her handler? _____



Did You Know?

Four Legged Soldier Fact Sheet

1. Military dogs have been used in every American conflict. The official recognition for four legged soldiers didn't come until World War II.
2. Originally, dogs in wars involving the United States mostly were used to carry messages. The dogs could get through enemy lines very easily and deliver the messages without being detected. Today dogs help guard facilities and use their noses to find chemicals.
3. For a dog to be part of the military it costs money to train and teach essential skills. It can cost as much as \$8,000 a dog to give each the necessary skills by the time they graduate.
4. Typically a dog will retire around the 10 year mark. The dogs who are physically fit and still able to do the job might stick around longer, but once they appear tired they can go home and relax.
5. Sergeant Stubby, a very famous dog who was part of the military was the most decorated War Dog in history. He saved an entire group of soldiers from an enemy attack and thanks to his help, everyone made it out safely. He also met three presidents during his lifetime.
6. Another big hero who served with the military was a German shepherd named Chips. The dog single-handedly forced a large group of enemy soldiers to surrender. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star and the Purple Heart after people heard of his bravery.
7. Rin Tin Tin is the most famous dog military dog of the movies. A German war dog, he was abandoned, then adopted by American troops and brought to the U.S., where he became a movie star after World War I. American soldier, Lee Duncan, brought the dog back to America where he got his start in show business.
8. Military handlers of four legged soldiers get first option to adopt. 90% of the dogs find homes with individuals who have worked with the animals in the past and are already familiar with the needs of the animal.

Glossary

Doggles – Goggles for dogs.

Four Legged Soldier – The dog who works in the military after being trained to work with a person. The jobs a dog could be used for include sniffing for certain types of chemicals, securing areas and catching bad guys.

Kong – The favorite type of toy played with by a military dog. Coming in several sizes, a Kong will excite a military dog immediately.

Military Handler – The person who is responsible for the dog, while the animal is at work, is the military handler. During assignments with the animal this person will make sure the dog is fed, played with and taken care of. Military handlers sometimes even let the dogs sleep in their beds!

Obstacle Course – A field of puzzles set up to test and teach a dog during training.

Retirement – The days after the dog is officially done working for the military.

Rank – A position in the military that tells others how important the job is.

Training – The lessons taught to a dog to show them what to do in a situation.

Uniform – This is the clothing, harnesses or collars the dog wears while on duty. Depending on the job, a dog could also wear dog boots, a cooling vest and even badges to identity what command post the dog works out of.



Make a Military Dog Care Package

Class Project

For a class project, consider putting together a military dog care package to send to a military dog handler or handed off to the local recruitment office. Just as care packages are sent to human soldiers, care packages can also be sent to military dogs. Putting together a package would offer your class a connection to the lesson and give a personal touch to the lesson.

Items that could be in your care package for military dogs could include:

- K9 Cooling Mats
- K9 Doggles
- Kong 3" Rubber Balls
- K9 Cooling Collars
- Large Rope Chews
- Dog Blankets
- Towels to wipe paws
- True Chews Beef Treat Sticks (made in USA)
- Collapsible Nylon Dog Bowls
- Dog Treats (made in USA)

Don't forget about the human handlers. Consider adding a few items in the care package for them too:

- Individually packaged crackers and cheese snacks
- Power Bars
- Dried Fruit
- Microwave Popcorn
- Bubble Gum
- Candy
- Instant Soup

Notes, cards and messages from students could also be in the care package.

How Many Words – Answer Key

How many words can be found in “Four Legged Soldiers”? Apparently quite a few. Depending on the word sleuths who set out to find the most words in a designated time period, dozens of new words are possible. For this answer key, we have included words with four letters or more:

Deed, deeds, deer, deerflies, defer, defile, defog, defogged, defuse, defused, degree, degreeless, degrees, deli, delirious, deluge, deride, desire, desired, desires, desirous, diddled, died, diesel, diesels, differ, differed, differs, diffuse, diffused, diffuser, digger, diggers, digress, dill, dilled, dills, disfigure, disguise, disguised, disguises, dislodge, dislodged, disorder, disorders, dissed, disses, dodge, dodged, dodger, doer, doers, does, dogged, doggies, dogleg, doglegged, dogs, dogsled, dole, doll, dollies, dolls, doodle, door, doors, doorsill, doorsills, dose, dosed, doses, douses, dredge, dredged, dredger, dredgers, dredges, dreg, dress, dressed, dresser, dried, drier, driers, dries, drill, droid, drool, drudge, drudged, drudges, drug, drugged, druid, dude, dudes, duds, duel, duffel, dull, duos, edge, eels, eggroll, eggrolls, eggs, egos, elude, eludes, erode, eroded, erodes, error, errors, feed, feeder, feeders, feeds, feel, feeler, feelers, feels, fees, fell, ferries, ferris, feuds, fiddle, fiddler, field, fielder, fielders, fields, figs, figure, figured, figures, file, fill, fire, fired, fireflies, fires, fireside, firesides, fled, fledge, fledged, flee, flees, flier, flood, flooded, floor, floors, floss, flossed, flour, fluff, fluid, fluids, fluoride, foil, foiled, foils, fold, folded, folder, folders, folds, food, foods, fool, fools, forge, forged, forges, forgo, fossil, fossils, foul, fouls, four, fours, free, freed, fried, frill, frog, frogs, fudge, fuel, fueled, furious, furor, furs, fuse, fuses, fuss, gels, gig, giggle, giggles, gigs, gild, girdles, girl, glee, glide, glided, glider, glue, glued, gods, goer, goers, goes, golds, golf, golfer, golfers, good, goods, goof, goofed, goofier, goofs, gore, gored, gorge, gorgeous, gorges, gourd, gourds, greed, grid, griddles, grids, grief, grieves, grill, grudges, gruel, guess, guide, guides, guild, gulls, gurgle, gurgled, gurgles, guru, gurus, idol, isle, isles, issue, issued, issuer, issues, ledge, legged, legless, legs, lode, lodes, lodge, lodged, lodger, lodgers, lodges, logged, logger, loose, lose, loser, losers, loses, loss, loud, louder, lugs, lull, lulled, odds, odors, offer, offered, offers, oilfield, oilfields, oodles, ours, reds, reef, reefs, reel, refer, referee, refereed, referees, referred, refugee, reside, residue, reuse, reused, reuses, riddle, riddles, ride, rider, rides, rile, role, roles, roll, rolled, roller, rollers, rolls, roof, roofs, rose, roses, rudder, rues, ruff, ruffle, ruffles, rugs, rule, ruled, ruler, rulers, rules, seed, self, selfie, selfies, selfless, sell, seller, sellers, selloff, sells, series, side, sided, siege, sill, sillier, sills, silo, silos, sled, sleds, slide, slider, sliders, slides, slug, slugger, slugs, soil, sold, soles, solid, solids, solo, sore, sorer, sores, soul, souls, sour, soured, sourer, sours, sudoriferous, suds, sued, suede, sues, suffer, suffers, sure, surf, surfed, surfer, surfers, surfs, surge, surgeries, uglier, urge, urged, used, useful, useless, user, users, uses

Activity Question Answer Key

1. Dogs smell 1,000 times better than humans
2. Doggles are what the military calls goggles for dogs
3. Military dogs are rewarded after work by playing fetch or ball.
4. A human handler is the responsible person who takes care of the animal.
5. Assignments for the military dogs go all over the world.
6. A dog receives 120 days or four months of training as a young dog before starting.

Thank YOU Teachers!

Your interest in Four Legged Soldiers is appreciated!

