

## Teacher Resource

# War Dogs

## Focus Questions

1. Briefly summarise the BTN *War Dogs* story.
2. Why are dogs used to help protect humans in the military?
3. How many dogs were enlisted during the First World War?
4. What type of jobs did dogs that served in the First World War do?
5. What are casualty dogs?
6. What are messenger dogs?
7. Who recently put on a special event for military dogs?
8. What does the memorial look like?
9. Dogs are still an important part in the Aussie military. True or false?
10. How did you feel watching the BTN *War Dogs* story?

## Activity

### What do you see, think and wonder?

After watching the BTN *War Dogs* story, students will respond to the following questions:

- What did you SEE in this video?
- What do you THINK about what you saw in this video?
- What did you LEARN from this story?
- What was SURPRISING about this story?
- What QUESTIONS do you have about this story?

### Class Discussion

As a class discuss the BTN *War Dogs* story, using the following questions as a guide. Record the main points of the discussion.

- What role have dogs played in wars?
- What other animals have gone to war and what role have they played?
- What medal honours the work of animals in war?
- Should animals play a role in war? Why or why not?



The BTN story focussed on dogs using during wartime. To find out more about how the role of animals during the war, watch these BTN stories.

[War Animals](#)

[Remembrance Day](#)

[The Animals of WWI](#)

## Key Learning

Students will investigate the role animals have played during wartime.

## Curriculum

### HASS – Year 3

Days and weeks celebrated or commemorated in Australia (including Australia Day, Anzac Day, and National Sorry Day) and the importance of symbols and emblems.

### HASS – Year 5 & 6

Develop appropriate questions to guide an inquiry about people, events, developments, places, systems and challenges.

Locate and collect relevant information and data from primary sources and secondary sources.

### HASS – Year 7

Use historical terms and concepts.

## Activity

Students will brainstorm a list of key words and terms that relate to the BTN *War Dogs* story. Students may want to use pictures and diagrams to illustrate the meaning and create their own glossary. Here are some words to get you started.

Anzac	Mascot	Troops
Messenger	Carrier Pigeon	Dickin Medal

## Activity

### War Animals Research

Students will be exploring the part animals play in war in more detail. They can develop their own key questions to investigate or respond to one or more of the questions below. Students can complete the following KWLH organiser to explore their knowledge and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I <u>k</u>now?</i>	<i>What do I <u>w</u>ant to know?</i>	<i>What have I <u>l</u>earnt?</i>	<i><u>H</u>ow will I find out?</i>

Here are some possible questions for students to research:

- Explore the pros and cons of using animals during wars.
- Why did the Anzac soldiers take animals to war with them?
- Investigate how one of the following helped soldiers during the Gallipoli campaign.
  - The Imperial Camel Corps
  - The 13<sup>th</sup> Australian Light Horse Regiment
  - John Simpson Kilpatrick and his donkey
- How did animals help service people during WWI and WWII?
- Not all animals were helpful during war. Investigate animals that were unwelcome such as rats and insects and the impact they had on the lives of soldiers.
- Communication is very important during wartime. How did animals help to send life-saving messages?
- Find out more about the Dickin Medal awarded to animals for bravery. Profile an animal that received the award.



[Dickin Medal](#)

## Activity

### Visual literacy

Below are images that relate to animals in war. Students look at the image and then respond to the following questions:

- What do you see in this image?
- What do you think is happening?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- Create a caption for each image.

Students will choose a photograph and write a short, fictional story based on the image. Students might want to tell the story of the photographer or a person in the photograph. Students will use their research to help them imagine what their characters were thinking and feeling.



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)



[Link to image](#)

## Useful Websites

War Animals – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/war-animals/10532762>

Remembrance Day – BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/remembrance-day/10537572>

The Animals of WWI - BTN

<https://www.abc.net.au/btn/classroom/the-animals-of-wwi/10526682>

Animals in Wartime – Australian War Memorial

[https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/m\\_is\\_for\\_mates.pdf](https://www.awm.gov.au/sites/default/files/m_is_for_mates.pdf)

New war memorial honours military working dogs (ABC News) – YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X5sErTSRndw>