



Teacher Resource

# War Animals

## Focus Questions

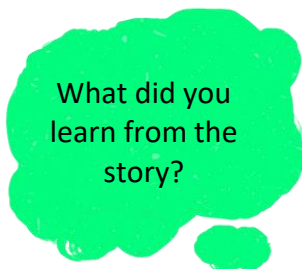
Discuss the BTN story as a class and record the main points of the discussion. Students will then respond to the following:

1. Briefly summarise the BTN War Animals story.
2. What part have animals played in wars?
3. What medal recognises the work of animals in war?
4. Which flower is a symbol of remembrance for animals who have served in wars?
5. Do you think animals should have greater recognition for the role they play in wars? Give reasons for your answer.

## Activity: Personal Response

After watching the BTN War Animals story, ask students to finish one or more of the following incomplete sentences:

- It was interesting to learn that...
- Learning about war animals made me feel...
- BTN did a story about war animals because...



## Activity: Class Discussion

Discuss the information raised in the BTN War Animals story. Use the questions below to guide the discussion.

- What role have animals played in wars?
- What medal honours the work of animals in war?
- Should animals have greater recognition for the part they've played in war? Why or why not?

### EPISODE 7

21<sup>st</sup> March 2023

### KEY LEARNING

Students will learn more about the role animals have played in wars.

### 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: Glossary

Students will brainstorm a list of key words that relate to the BTN War Animals story. Here are some words to get them started.

MASCOT	DICKIN MEDAL	COMMEMORATE
TROOPS	CARRIER PIGEON	WAR PENSION

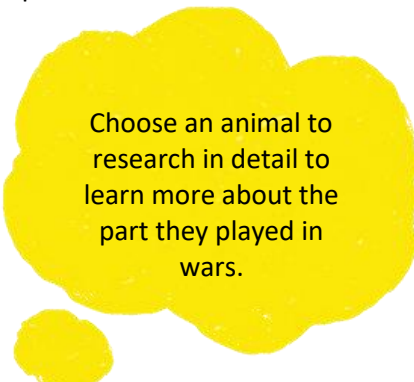
## Activity: Research project

Discuss the information raised in the BTN War Animals story. What questions were raised in the discussion and what are the gaps in students' knowledge? The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic.

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

Students will develop their own question/s to research or choose one or more of the questions below.

- 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.
- Should animals have greater recognition for the role they play in wars? Develop an argument for or against the issue.



Choose an animal to research in detail to learn more about the part they played in wars.

## 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 does the image tell you about the part animals have played in wars?
- 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](#)

## Activity: War Animals Quiz

1. What medal honours the work of animals in war?

- A. Victoria Cross
- B. Dickin Medal
- C. Order of Australia

2. Which animal worked with Private John Simpson to bring hundreds of wounded soldiers at Gallipoli to safety?

- A. Donkey
- B. Horse
- C. Dog

3. What was the name of the cat that received a bravery award during WWII?

- A. Horrie
- B. Simon
- C. Duffy

4. Which flower is a symbol of remembrance for animals who have served in wars?

- A. Red rose
- B. Red poppy
- C. Purple poppy

5. Animals are no longer used by the defence force.

- A. True
- B. False

Quiz Answers: 1B, 2A, 3B, 4C, 5B

## Useful Websites

- [Calls for more recognition for Australia's war animals, including pension for war dogs](#) – ABC News
- [The Animals of WWI](#) – BTN
- [War Animals](#) – BTN
- [Animals in Wartime](#) – Australian War Memorial
- [Remembrance Day](#) – BTN