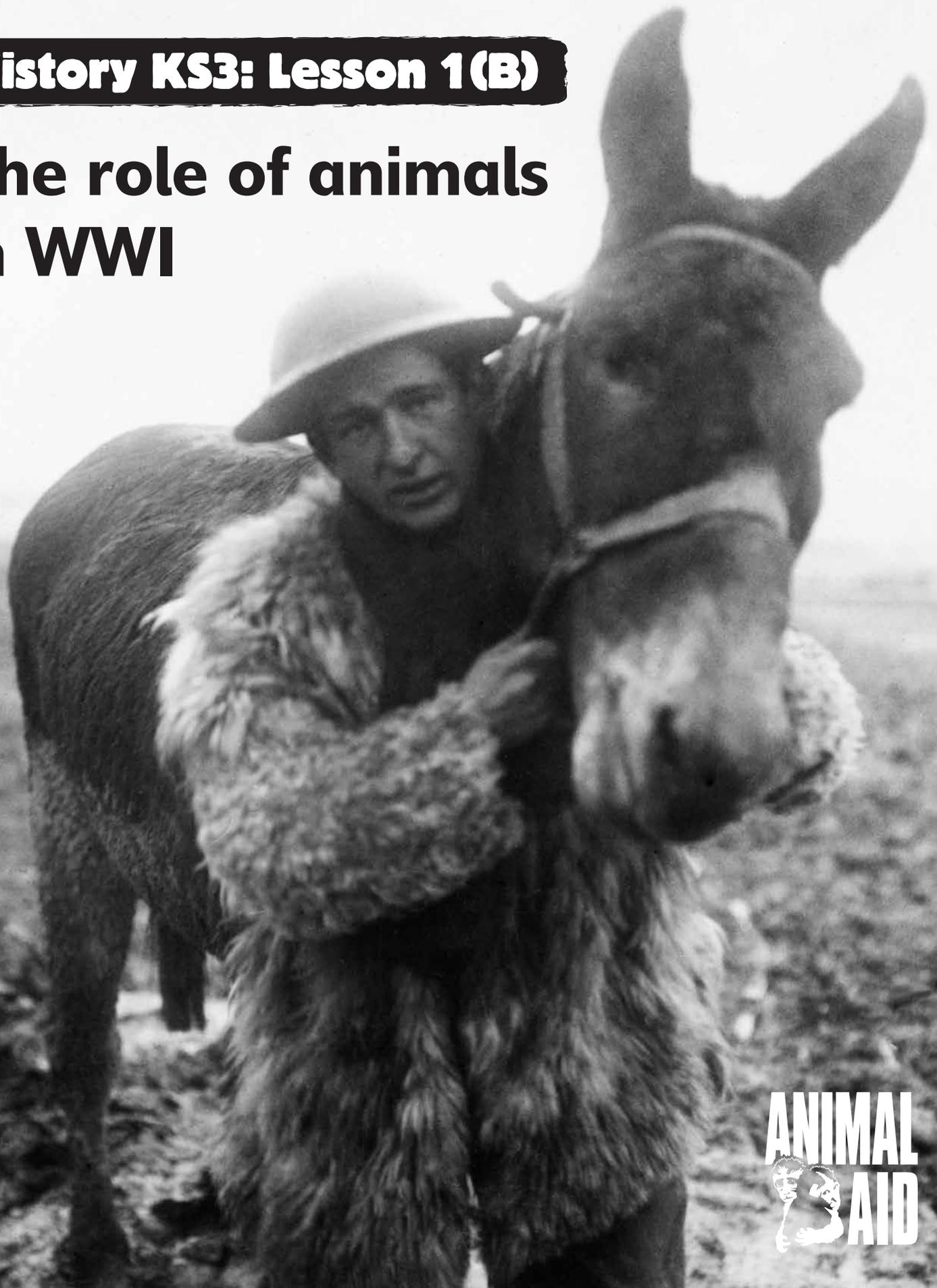


# The Animals' War

**History KS3: Lesson 1(B)**

**The role of animals  
in WWI**





### Lesson Plan Duration: one hour

#### ■ Context of Lesson/Key Ideas:

The Centenary of the First World War is an ideal opportunity to look at the role of animals during this time. Animals played an extensive part in WW1. This lesson looks at which animals were used, and why.

#### ■ Aims and Objectives:

- To explore the varied roles of animals during World War One.
- To research and report back on your findings.

#### ■ National Curriculum coverage:

- KSt3: The First World War. To inspire pupils' curiosity to know more about the past. To equip pupils to ask perceptive questions, think critically, weigh evidence, sift arguments, and develop perspective and judgement.

#### ■ Resources (\*available as downloads from website):

- 1 Paw outline and questions for starter task (PowerPoint slide) \*
- 2 Factsheet: *Animals in WWI part one – War Horses* \*
- 3 Factsheet: *Animals in WWI part two – Messengers and Protectors* \*
- 4 Resource sheet 1: Student quiz answer sheet
- 5 Resource sheet 2: *War Horses* quiz questions (also available as PowerPoint slide\*)
- 6 Resource sheet 3: *Messengers and Protectors* quiz questions (also available as PowerPoint slide\*)
- 7 Resource sheet 4: Combined factsheets quiz questions (also available as PowerPoint slide\*)
- 8 Resource sheet 5: *War Horses* quiz answers
- 9 Resource sheet 6: *Messengers and Protectors* quiz questions answers
- 10 Resource sheet 7: Combined factsheets quiz answers

#### ■ Learning tasks:

##### Preparation homework task (optional)

- Research task: Use the internet to compile a list of the different kinds of animals used in the war and for each animal make a list of the tasks they performed.

##### Starter (10 minutes)

- Project the image of the paw print and questions onto the whiteboard and invite students to come and write their responses on the board with their name/initials next to them. Encourage all students to make at least one contribution each.
- Lead a discussion of the student responses, encouraging individual students to expand on their answers.
- Question: Which animal was most important to the armies? (Horses) Why? (They were needed for transport as there was little motorised transport)



### Main

- **Differentiation:**

According to the ability of students, use either one of the factsheets, or both factsheets for the quiz and/or allow teams of students to retain the factsheet(s) to source the answers during the quiz.

#### 1. Quiz (30 minutes)

- Arrange students into teams of 4 - 6 and ask them to nominate a team captain and scribe and devise a team name, which must be written on their quiz paper (Resource 4). Explain that they will be quizzed on the information from the factsheet(s) on animals in World War One.
- Hand out one or both copies of the factsheets (Resources 2 and/or 3) and ask students to study the text as a team – taking turns to each read a section out loud to the group. After 10 minutes (or when all teams have finished reading), collect the factsheets back (if required), ready for the quiz.
- Using the quiz question sheet (Resource 5, 6 or 7), ask each question, allowing enough time for teams to confer and write down their answers.
- Ask teams to swap answer sheets for the marking. Read out the answers and ask team captains to add up the scores then pass papers back to teams. Announce and applaud the winning team (a prize could be given).

#### 2. Report (15 minutes)

- Ask students to use the factsheets to list the animals involved in the war in order of their importance to the armies and next to each give the reasons why.

### Plenary (5 minutes)

- Recap the nature of the roles that animals played in the First World War.

### Homework/extension

- a) Write a report making a case for which animals were most important in fighting the war and why, and describing the hardships and hazards they faced.
- or b) Investigate what happened to animals at the end of the war.



**Resource sheet 1 Quiz Answer Sheet**

**Team Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

1.	.....
2.	.....
3.	.....
4.	.....
5.	.....
6.	.....
7.	.....
8.	.....
9.	.....
10.	.....
<b>Total points:</b>	_____



**Resource sheet 2** *War Horses Quiz Questions*

1. Where did the army get many of their horses for the war? (3pt)
2. What was the name of the girl who wrote to Lord Kitchener asking for her horse Betty not to be taken for the war? (1pt)
3. List the three main jobs that horses were used for in the war. (3pts)
4. Name two new weapons that made cavalry charges extremely dangerous. (2pts)
5. What was the name of the army corps that used most horses? (1pt)
6. How did horses die in the mud of the battlefield? (1pt)
7. How many horses, mules and donkeys died in WWI? (1pt)
8. What were the four main causes of death for horses during the war? (4pts)
9. How many of the one million horses in the British army at the end of the war, were returned to Britain? (1pt)
10. Who set up the hospital in Egypt to look after horses who were abandoned after the war? (1pt)

**Total: 18 points**



**Resource sheet 3** *Messengers and Protectors* Quiz Questions:

1. What happened to many of the dogs who failed training and didn't make the grade for war? (1pt)
2. How many miles could a messenger dog travel in a period of 1-2 hours? (1pt)
3. Which two dangerous obstacles did the dogs have to travel through or over? (2pts)
4. Which other popular household pet was a mascot for soldiers during the war? (1pt)
5. Which two qualities did carrier pigeons have, which made them a very valuable asset in the war? (2pts)
6. Out of the 100,000 pigeons used in the war, how many were killed in action? (1pt)
7. Why were camels used instead of horses during the First World War? (1pts)
8. What were the three main causes of death for camels during the war? (3pts)
9. What role did mice and canaries play in the war? (1pt)
10. Which three species of animal were used in the chemical weapons experiments at the Royal Engineers Experimental Station during 1916? (3pts)

**Total: 16 points**



**Resource sheet 4** *Combined Factsheets Quiz Questions*

1. What happened to many of the dogs who failed training and didn't make the grade for war? (1pt)
2. What was the name of the girl who wrote to Lord Kitchener asking for her horse Betty not to be taken for the war? (1pt)
3. Which two dangerous obstacles did the dogs have to travel through or over? (2pts)
4. Which other popular household pet was a mascot for soldiers during the war? (1pt)
5. List the three main jobs that horses were used for in the war. (3pts)
6. Name two new weapons that made cavalry charges extremely dangerous. (2pts)
7. Out of the 100,000 pigeons used in the war, how many were killed in action? (1pt)
8. What role did mice and canaries play in the war? (1pt)
9. Which three species of animal were used in the chemical weapons experiments at the Royal Engineers Experimental Station during 1916? (3pts)
10. Who set up the hospital in Egypt to look after horses who were abandoned after the war? (1pt)

**Total: 16 points**



**Resource sheet 5** *War Horses Quiz Answers*

1. Where did the army get many of their horses for the war?  
**A: from farms, hunt stables and omnibus companies** (3pts)
2. What was the name of the girl who wrote to Lord Kitchener asking for her horse Betty not to be taken for the war?  
**A: Poppy Hewlett** (1pt)
3. List the three main jobs that horses were used for in the war.  
**A: cavalry, transporting supplies, pulling artillery** (3pts)
4. Name two new weapons that made cavalry charges extremely dangerous.  
**A: machine guns and explosive shells (1/2 point for barbed wire)**  
(2pts max)
5. What was the name of the army corps that used most horses?  
**A: Army Service Corps (ASC)** (1pt)
6. How did horses die in the mud of the battlefield?  
**A: they became trapped and drowned** (1pt)
7. How many horses, mules and donkeys died in WWI?  
**A: 8 million** (1pt)
8. What were the four main causes of death for horses during the war?  
**A: cold, hunger, exhaustion and disease** (4pts)
9. How many of the one million horses in the British army at the end of the war, were returned to Britain?  
**A: 25,000** (1pt)
10. Who set up the hospital in Egypt to look after horses who were abandoned after the war?  
**A: Dorothy Brooke** (1pt)

**Total: 18 points**



**Resource sheet 6** *Messengers and Protectors Quiz Answers*

1. What happened to many of the dogs who failed training and didn't make the grade for war?  
**A: they were put down** (1pt)
2. How many miles could a messenger dog travel in a period of 1-2 hours?  
**A: 10-15 miles** (1pt)
3. Which two dangerous obstacles did the dogs have to travel through or over?  
**A: barbed wire and shell holes** (2pts)
4. Which other popular household pet was a mascot for soldiers during the war?  
**A: the cat** (1pt)
5. Which two qualities did carrier pigeons have, which made them a very valuable asset in the war?  
**A: homing ability and great stamina** (2pts)
6. Out of the 100,000 pigeons used in the war, how many were killed in action?  
**A: 20,000** (1pt)
7. Why were camels used instead of horses during the First World War?  
**A: they could cope with the high temperatures of the Middle Eastern countries** (1pt)
8. What were the three main causes of death for camels during the war?  
**A: disease, exhaustion and neglect** (3pts)
9. What role did mice and canaries play in the war?  
**A: to warn the tunnel diggers of the presence of dangerous gases such as methane or carbon monoxide** (1pt)
10. Which three species of animal were used in the chemical weapons experiments at the Royal Engineers Experimental Station during 1916?  
**A: rats, cats and goats** (3pts)

**Total: 16 points**



**Resource sheet 7 Combined Factsheets Quiz Answers**

1. What happened to many of the dogs who failed training and didn't make the grade for war?  
**A: they were put down (1pt)**
2. What was the name of the girl who wrote to Lord Kitchener asking for her horse Betty not to be taken for the war?  
**A: Poppy Hewlett (1pt)**
3. Which two dangerous obstacles did the dogs have to travel through or over?  
**A: barbed wire and shell holes (2pts)**
4. Which other popular household pet was a mascot for soldiers during the war?  
**A: the cat (1pt)**
5. List the three main jobs that horses were used for in the war.  
**A: cavalry, transporting supplies, pulling artillery (3pts)**
6. Name two new weapons that made cavalry charges extremely dangerous.  
**A: machine guns and explosive shells (1/2 point for barbed wire)**  
(2pts max)
7. Out of the 100,000 pigeons used in the war, how many were killed in action?  
**A: 20,000 (1pt)**
8. What role did mice and canaries play in the war?  
**A: to warn the tunnel diggers of the presence of dangerous gases such as methane or carbon monoxide (1pt)**
9. Which three species of animal were used in the chemical weapons experiments at the Royal Engineers Experimental Station during 1916?  
**A: rats, cats and goats (3pts)**
10. Who set up the hospital in Egypt to look after horses who were abandoned after the war?  
**A: Dorothy Brooke (1pt)**

**Total: 16 points**