

# The Animals' War

## History KS3: Lesson 3

How significant was the role played by animals during WWI?





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**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.

### ■ Aims and Objectives:

- To explore the concept of significance.

### ■ National Curriculum coverage:

- KSt3: The First World War. To understand historical concepts such as significance, and use it to make connections, draw contrasts, analyse trends, frame historically valid questions and create their own structured accounts, including written narratives and analyses.

### ■ Resources

- Evidence on the Animal Aid website

### ■ Learning tasks:

#### Starter (10 minutes)

- Ian Dawson argues that something is significant if it:
  - changed events at the time.
  - improved lots of people's lives – or made them worse.
  - changed people's ideas.
  - had a long-lasting impact on their country or the world.
  - had been a really good or a very bad example of how to live or behave.
- Ask students to discuss whether they agree with these criteria for something being significant. Are there any of these criteria they would not include in their list? Or are there others they would add?

#### Main (45 minutes)

- Ask students to work in pairs or small groups to carry out research on the Animal Aid website (or other relevant sites), to investigate the significance of the role played by animals during World War One. Ask them to use their own criteria to decide how significant the role played by animals was during World War One.
- Ask them to produce a set of posters, wall chart or PowerPoint presentation to present their findings to the rest of your class.

#### Plenary (5 minutes)

- Ask students whether or not they think people in 1918 would feel the same way as people do today about the part played by animals in World War One. If you think they would feel differently, why is that?



### Homework/extension

- Discuss/investigate how the role played by animals in warfare has changed since 1918. How are animals used in warfare today?  
<http://www.animalaid.org.uk/images/pdf/booklets/war.pdf>  
[www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-war-animals](http://www.history.co.uk/study-topics/history-of-war-animals)  
<http://www.awm.gov.au/exhibitions/animals/>  
will help you to begin to answer this question.
- Discuss/investigate why it took until 2004 for a memorial to animals in war to be built in London. Are there other memorials to animals in war around the world? When were they built? How similar, and how different, are these to the one in London? Can we draw any conclusions from these memorials?