



Eager to Help

SUGGESTED GRADE LEVEL 2

Objective	To learn the many ways in which dogs are trained to help people and society.
Materials	<i>Activity Sheet</i> Helping Hounds
Activity Procedure National Standards: Science 4.3 Life Science English 12.3 Evaluation strategies 12.4 Communication skills 12.5 Communication strategies 12.6 Language structure	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ask students to name ways that dogs help people. Point out that some dogs serve as guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs act as the "ears" for people who cannot hear, and therapy dogs help people who are sick feel better. 2. Distribute copies of the Activity Sheet and ask students to work singly or in pairs to complete it. Discuss the answers as a class. (Answers: herding dog, guide dog, therapy dog, police dog, rescue dog)
Art/Language Arts	<p style="text-align: center;">EXTEND THIS LESSON</p> <p>Ask students: <i>If you could be a helping dog, which kind would you be? Why?</i> Have students draw a picture of the dog performing one of its tasks. Then have them write one or two sentences that describe the job performed and why it is important. Invite students to share their pictures and descriptions with the class.</p>
Social Studies/ Language Arts	<p>Ask students: <i>What other animals can be trained to help people? How do they help?</i> Point out that cats sometimes live in nursing homes to keep residents company. In the past, horses pulled loads and were used for transportation but now often help children in equine-assisted therapy programs. Ask students to use the Internet or library resources to learn more and report their findings to the class.</p>
Social Studies	<p>Invite the owner of a guide dog or search-and-rescue dog to visit the class and talk about their dog's training and the work it does to help people. Ask the speaker to explain how the dogs are selected and trained. Also have the owner explain to students what they should do if they meet a working dog in public.</p>



Helping Hounds

Do you know how dogs help people? Fill in these blanks to learn more about the jobs that different dogs do to help. Read the description. Then write the name of the job on the line.

1. I help farmers keep sheep and cattle in groups.

Write my job here. _____

2. I help people who can't see by helping them avoid dangers.

Write my job here. _____

3. I like to help people feel better when they are sick by going to visit them in hospitals or nursing homes.

Write my job here. _____

4. I help police officers do their job.

Write my job here. _____

5. I help people find skiers who need help getting out of the snow.

Write my job here. _____



rescue dogs

guide dogs

police dogs

herding dogs

therapy dogs

