

# Dogs for Defense: Hero Hounds



## INTRODUCTION

At a time when every American was asked to make sacrifices for the American war effort, WWII marked the establishment of Dogs for Defense, a program to which families donated their pet dog to serve in the U.S. military. These four-legged recruits came in every size and shape from the backyards of small towns and big cities, and were transformed through training from loving pets into working troops. Through a variety of artifacts and simulations, students will follow the journey of their pet dog as he leaves the family sofa, enters the battlefield, and returns home a hero.

## TARGET AUDIENCE

Grades 3 - 5

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will gain an understanding of the overall objective of Dogs For Defense as an example of Americans' patriotism and home front volunteerism for the WWII war effort.
- Students will be introduced to the preferred breeds, specialized duties, and outstanding dogs of the K-9 Corps.
- Students will gain knowledge of the characteristics and value of primary sources.

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\*Pre-printing/cutting Required

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# Core Standards

## COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

For English Language Arts & Literacy in History/ Social Studies, Science and Technical Subjects

| Grade Level |                                      | 3rd - 5th |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| Standard    | <b>RI</b> - Reading Informative Text | 1-4, 7-8  |
|             | <b>RL</b> - Reading Literature       | 1-3       |
|             | <b>SL</b> - Speaking and Listening   | 1-3       |

## KANSAS CONTENT STANDARDS:

Additionally, this lesson supports Kansas History, Government, and Social Studies Standards 2.1 and 3.1 through its discussion of America's spirit of volunteerism, patriotism, and civic responsibility.

\*To view another state's content standards, visit that state's Department of Education website.