

# 9/11 MEMORIAL

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UNIT: Heroes and Service

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GRADE LEVEL/S: K-2

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TIME NEEDED: 1 session

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TEACHER: Taralyn Ciaramello

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LESSON TITLE:

## FURRY HEROES

### Common Core Standards

**W 8** Gather relevant information from multiple print and digital sources, assess the credibility and accuracy of each source, and integrate the information while avoiding plagiarism.

**SL 2** Integrate and evaluate information presented in diverse media and formats, including visually, quantitatively, and orally.

**L 3** Apply knowledge of language to understand how language functions in different contexts, to make effective choices for meaning or style, and to comprehend more fully when reading or listening.

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### Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What is a hero?
- Can animals be heroes?
- How did the Search and Rescue (SAR) Dogs help during and after 9/11?

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### Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will understand how SAR dogs helped people during and after 9/11.
- Students will understand how SAR dogs helped people during other disasters.

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### Key Terms

Heroes, Search and Rescue Dogs

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### Materials

- [Furry Heroes Story](#)
- Furry Heroes Worksheet

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### Instructional Activity/ Procedures

1. Introduce the lesson to students and ask: *What is a hero?*
2. Once the students establish that a hero is a person with certain qualities, ask: *What makes someone a hero?* Chart responses if desired.
3. Ask the students: *Can animals be heroes?* After several students share, the teacher declares, "Animals can be heroes, and now I am going to read you a story about some very special dogs that were heroes in New York City."
4. Read the [Furry Heroes](#) story aloud to the class.

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5. When the story is finished, ask, *Would you like to see a picture of one of these dogs?* Show an image from page two of the Furry Heroes Story. Discuss how the dog looks and what he is wearing: *What did you notice about this dog? What made him a good Search and Rescue Dog? What did you notice about his body? What did you notice about what he was wearing?*
  - Possible responses: Long snouts for good sense of smell, muscular, strong, friendly, smart, kind; His boots to are to protect his feet, and his bag lets him and his handlers carry important things
6. Hand out the [Furry Heroes](#) Worksheet. The teacher may choose to have the children do the worksheet independently or go through each question as a class and elicit the answers before writing the words on a chart for younger students to copy them down. Once the writing is done, the teacher invites the students to draw and color their own dog, including details they have discussed.

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**Evidence of Understanding**

The discussion as well as the recall of facts during the worksheet portion acts as an assessment of the students' comprehension.

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**Extension Activities**

- The teacher may share [Search and Rescue Dogs](#) by Mari Schuh published by Capstone Press, 2011 (appropriate for K-3) to continue discussing Search and Rescue Dogs in the aftermath of 9/11.
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# 9/11 MEMORIAL

## FURRY HEROES STORY

Back in 2001, there was a terrible disaster in lower Manhattan. There used to be two tall buildings called the Twin Towers. They were called the Twin Towers because there were two of them and they looked nearly the same. They had 110 floors and were the tallest buildings in New York City. For a short time, they were the tallest buildings in the world. People came from all over the world to see them and enjoy the view from the observation deck in the South Tower. The buildings were filled with the offices of different companies. 35,000 people worked in the towers and 430 companies had their offices there.

On September 11, 2001, a group of terrible men hijacked four airplanes and crashed two of them into the Twin Towers. Firefighters and police officers rushed to the site to try and save people who were trapped in the buildings. The buildings were very badly damaged though, and before the first responders could help everyone, the buildings collapsed. There was rubble everywhere and nearly 3,000 people were killed.

Almost immediately, thousands of volunteers showed up to help, including over 300 Search and Rescue Dogs. The dogs came from all over to help out at the World Trade Center pile. There were German Shepherds, Rottweilers, Golden Retrievers, Labradors, Border Collies, and others. Some of the dogs wore special vests to show that they were working.

All of the heroes, both humans and dogs, had to be very brave because they worked very long hours every day trying to find people. The Search and Rescue Dogs were very helpful because of their strong sense of smell. They could squeeze into small places or holes where people could not fit. The dogs were also very good at helping to cheer up the workers by wagging their tails and licking their faces when they were tired and sore from all of the hard work. The tired workers could also pet the dogs to feel better.



Close up of Rescue Dog. Photograph by Dianne Blell.

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## SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS



**QUESTION #1** Rescue dogs work hard to \_\_\_\_\_ people.

**QUESTION #2** They use their sense of \_\_\_\_\_ .

**QUESTION #3** Rescue dogs work \_\_\_\_\_ hours.

**QUESTION #4** Tired rescue workers feel better when they \_\_\_\_\_ the dogs.

**QUESTION #5** Rescue dogs are true \_\_\_\_\_ because they are so brave.