

9/11 MEMORIAL

UNIT: Heroes and Service

GRADE LEVEL/S: 6-7

TIME NEEDED: 1 sessions

TEACHER: Andrea Kovack

LESSON TITLE:

A TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS

Common Core Standards

RI 1 Read closely to determine what the text says explicitly and to make logical inferences from it; cite specific textual evidence when writing or speaking to support conclusions drawn from the text.

RI 2 Determine central ideas or themes of a text and analyze their development; summarize the key supporting details and ideas.

W 2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine and convey complex ideas and information clearly and accurately through the effective selection, organization, and analysis of content.

W 3 Write narratives to develop real or imagined experiences or events using effective technique, well-chosen details, and well-structured event sequences.

Key Questions/ Issues Addressed

- What defines a hero?
- What role did the rescue dogs have in rescue and recovery efforts after 9/11?
- Where were the dogs from?
- What happened to the dogs?

Lesson Goals/ Objectives

- Students will be able to define what makes a hero.
- Students will understand the role of rescue dogs in the aftermath of 9/11.
- Students will understand the different roles and participants in a rescue.

Key Terms

Determination, Sacrifice*, Search and Rescue, Tribute

*The act of giving up something for a reason or cause. One can sacrifice many things, including money, possessions, time, animals, or even a life. Often, someone who sacrifices does so out of a sense of duty or responsibility.

Materials

- Bauer, Nora Kilgore. Dog Heroes of September 11: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs. (Kennel Club Books, 2006)

**Instructional
Activity/
Procedures**

1. Discuss with students what traits define a hero. Record their responses.
2. Solicit student examples of heroes that embody those traits.
3. As an introduction, discuss the roles of rescue dogs in rescue and recovery operations.
 - *How would an animal help during a rescue?*
 - *What is rescue and recovery?*
 - *How would a dog help during recovery?*
 - *Why might an animal be a better option than a person in certain recovery situations?*
4. Assign students to small groups, each will read one story from [Dog Heroes of September 11: A Tribute to America's Search and Rescue Dogs](#).
5. Have each students answer the following questions about their dogs, conducting further internet research if possible:
 - *What role did your rescue dogs play in the rescue and recovery efforts after 9/11?*
 - *Where was your dog from?*
 - *What happened to your dog after their service ended at the World Trade Center?*
6. Students will discuss their findings about their animal and its contributions with the class. Each student will then design and create a 'Medal of Commemoration' for their dog and service handler.

**Evidence of
Understanding**

The research, reading comprehension, and creation of the Medal of Commemoration will highlight student's understanding of the importance and contributions of the 9/11 rescue dog and service handlers.

**Extension
Activities**

- See [K-9 Eleven](#) for another lesson examining the role of dogs in the aftermath of 9/11.