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

**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](https://911memorial.org) for another lesson examining the role of dogs in the aftermath of 9/11.