

DOGS

AROUND THE WORLD

FOR GRADES 4-6

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Use the interactive questions included on each page to start a conversation. These prompts are designed to help children think critically, imagine, and connect with the topic in meaningful ways.

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Happy Coloring!

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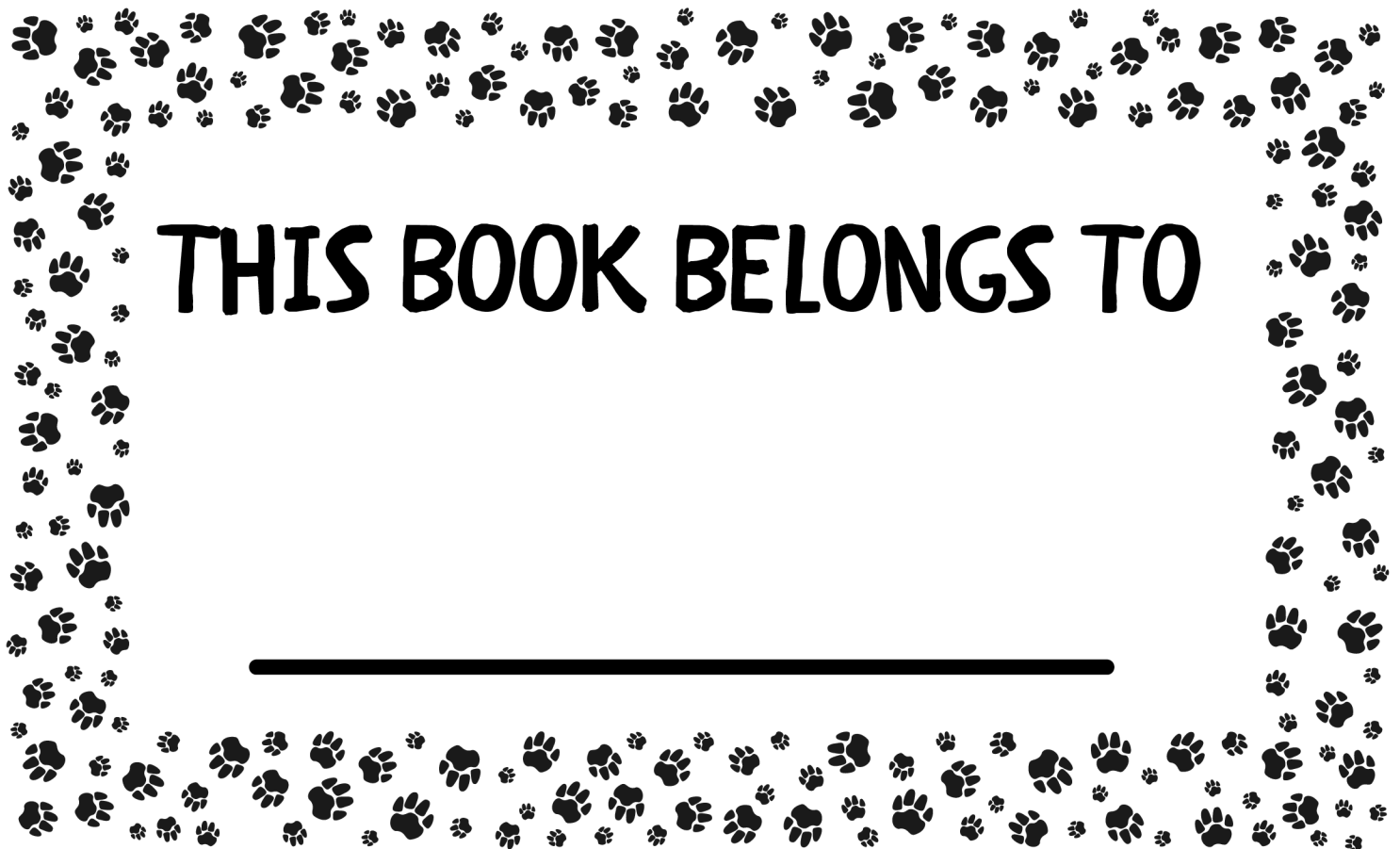


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1. Afghan Hound (Afghanistan)

Afghanistan, a country with rugged mountains, deserts, and ancient cities like Kabul and Herat, is home to the Afghan Hound, one of the world's oldest dog breeds. Archaeological evidence suggests that dogs resembling the Afghan Hound existed as far back as 4,000 years ago, making them a living piece of history. This breed was originally bred for hunting, prized for its exceptional speed and agility, which allowed it to chase prey like gazelles and rabbits across the rocky terrain. The Afghan Hound's long, silky coat, often golden, black, or cream, provides protection against both the cold mountain winds and the intense desert heat, an adaptation to Afghanistan's extreme climates. Scientifically, the Afghan Hound has a unique structure, with long, narrow bones and a streamlined body that helps it run at speeds up to 40 mph, making it one of the fastest dog breeds. This breed also has an independent and aloof personality, a trait linked to its solitary work as a hunter. Interestingly, Afghan Hounds have an unusually low number of scent receptors compared to other hunting breeds, relying more on sight, which classifies them as sighthounds.

EduSmart!

- How does the Afghan Hound's silky coat help it adapt to Afghanistan's harsh climates?
- What makes the Afghan Hound one of the fastest dog breeds in the world?
- Why do you think the Afghan Hound relies more on sight than scent for hunting?
- How does the breed's independent personality reflect its history as a solitary hunter?
- What do you think it was like for ancient hunters to work with Afghan Hounds thousands of years ago?



Afghan Hound - Afghanistan

The regal Afghan Hound is thought to be one of the oldest purebred dog breeds in the world; some even contend that an Afghan Hound pair represented dogs on Noah's ark. Lore aside, the breed can be traced back to the areas known today as Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, where they were once hunting companions for royalty.

ACTIVITY:

CREATE A "FASHION FOR AFGHAN HOUNDS" PAGE. DRAW AND COLOR AN AFGHAN HOUND, THEN DESIGN A FANCY OUTFIT OR SCARF FOR IT. LABEL YOUR DESIGN!

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

WHY DO YOU THINK AFGHAN HOUNDS WERE BRED TO RELY ON THEIR SIGHT INSTEAD OF THEIR SENSE OF SMELL FOR HUNTING IN AFGHANISTAN'S RUGGED TERRAIN?

2. Akita (Japan)

The Akita, a powerful and loyal dog breed, originated in the snowy mountains of northern Japan. Archaeological findings suggest that dogs resembling Akitas have been around for over 1,000 years. Historically, Akitas were bred to hunt large game such as bears, boars, and deer, and their muscular build and thick double coat made them ideal for harsh winters. The breed's dense coat consists of an outer layer that repels water and an insulating undercoat, a remarkable adaptation for survival in freezing climates. Scientifically, Akitas have a strong bite force of around 350 pounds per square inch (psi), which helped them bring down large prey. The Akita is also deeply tied to Japanese culture, symbolizing loyalty and protection. The famous Akita, Hachiko, is a national icon for his unwavering loyalty to his owner, waiting at a train station daily for nearly 10 years. Akitas also exhibit a strong pack mentality and are known for their reserved behavior toward strangers, a result of their protective instincts.

EduSmart!

- How does the Akita's thick double coat help it survive in freezing climates?
- Why do you think Akitas were bred to hunt large animals like bears and boars?
- What does the story of Hachiko teach us about the breed's loyalty?
- How do Akitas' protective instincts shape their behavior?
- Why do you think Akitas are symbols of strength and devotion in Japan?



Akita - Japan

The burly, double-coated Akita has a lineage dating back to ancient Japan, with the first modern Akitas bred in the Akita prefecture during the 17th century as a hunting dog. Helen Keller brought the first Akita to U.S. soil – a gift she received on a trip to Japan.

ACTIVITY:

MAKE A "LOYALTY MEDAL" FOR AN AKITA. DRAW A MEDAL AND DECORATE IT WITH SYMBOLS THAT SHOW WHY AKITAS ARE SO LOYAL.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU HAD AN AKITA, HOW WOULD YOU SHOW IT LOVE?

3. Alaskan Malamute (Alaska, USA)

The Alaskan Malamute, one of the oldest Arctic sled dog breeds, has been an essential part of survival in Alaska's icy landscapes for thousands of years. Originally bred by the Inuit people, Malamutes were used to pull heavy sleds loaded with supplies across vast distances. Their thick double coat, with a waterproof outer layer and a dense undercoat, provides insulation against temperatures as low as -70°F . Scientifically, Alaskan Malamutes are built for power rather than speed, with large, muscular frames and a broad chest that allows them to carry up to 150 pounds. Unlike other sled dog breeds like Huskies, Malamutes rely on their strength and endurance to transport goods rather than racing. Interestingly, the breed has strong pack instincts and thrives in group settings, a behavior rooted in its history of working in teams. Malamutes also have a unique vocalization style called "wooing," which is different from barking and reflects their social nature.

EduSmart!

- How does the Alaskan Malamute's thick coat protect it from extreme cold?
- Why is the Malamute built for strength rather than speed?
- How do pack instincts help Malamutes work effectively in teams?
- What role did Malamutes play in helping Inuit communities survive?
- Why do you think Malamutes "woo" instead of barking like other dogs?



Alaskan Malamute - Alaska

One of the oldest sled dog breeds from the Arctic region, the Alaskan Malamute likely descended from domesticated wolf-dogs who crossed the Bering Strait alongside Paleolithic hunters. They're named after the Mahlemut Inuit tribe, who bred the dogs to haul sleds over long distances and sniff out seal breathing holes in the ice.

ACTIVITY:

DRAW A SLED PULLED BY ALASKAN MALAMUTES. ADD SNOWFLAKES, A DRIVER, AND MAYBE SOME SUPPLIES ON THE SLED.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

WHAT WOULD YOU PACK ON A SLED JOURNEY WITH MALAMUTES?

4. Azawakh (Mali, West Africa)

The Azawakh, a slender and elegant dog breed, originates from the deserts of Mali in West Africa. These dogs have been loyal companions to the nomadic Tuareg people for centuries, helping to guard livestock and hunt small game. With their long legs and lean bodies, Azawakhs are built for speed, capable of running up to 35 mph, making them excellent hunters in the open desert. Their short, fine coat, which can be fawn, brindle, or white, helps them stay cool in the intense desert heat. Scientifically, the Azawakh has a unique skeletal structure, with longer legs relative to its body size compared to most breeds, optimizing it for endurance and speed. Unlike many dogs, Azawakhs have a low body fat percentage, which enhances their ability to dissipate heat. These dogs are also known for their strong loyalty to their families and their independent, reserved behavior toward strangers. Azawakhs are one of the few breeds that can form strong bonds with both humans and other dogs, reflecting their social and protective instincts.

EduSmart!

- How does the Azawakh's lean body help it survive in the desert?
- Why do you think the Tuareg people relied on Azawakhs for hunting and guarding?
- What makes the Azawakh's skeletal structure unique among dog breeds?
- How does the breed's loyalty make it an important companion for nomadic communities?
- Why do you think Azawakhs have such strong endurance and speed?



Azawakh - West Africa

The elegant Azawakh comes from the arid south Sahara and Azawakh Valley, where they were traditionally kept by Tuareg nomads (and treated as members of the family). The dogs typically doubled as camp guardians and sighthounds for hunting hare, antelope or wild boar.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A "DESERT SURVIVAL KIT" FOR AN AZAWAKH. DRAW WHAT YOU THINK IT NEEDS IN THE DESERT (E.G., WATER, A COZY RESTING SPOT).

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

HOW DO YOU THINK THE AZAWAKH'S SHORT COAT HELPS IT STAY COOL?

5. Basset Hound (France)

The Basset Hound, with its long ears, droopy face, and short legs, was originally bred in France as a hunting dog specialized in tracking small game like rabbits. Its name comes from the French word *bas*, meaning "low," a reference to its short stature. The Basset Hound's ears play a significant role in its hunting ability, as they help stir up scents from the ground and direct them toward the dog's exceptional nose. Scientifically, the Basset Hound has one of the most acute senses of smell among all dog breeds, second only to the Bloodhound, with approximately 220 million scent receptors. The breed's long, sturdy body and steady gait allow it to follow scent trails for hours without tiring, making it an ideal companion for hunters. Interestingly, the Basset Hound's vocalizations, including its deep bark and mournful howl, were used to communicate with hunters over long distances. Today, Basset Hounds are beloved for their friendly and laid-back personalities, making them excellent family pets.

EduSmart!

- How do the Basset Hound's long ears help it track scents?
- Why is the Basset Hound's sense of smell one of the best among dogs?
- How does the breed's sturdy body make it suited for long hunts?
- What role did the Basset Hound's vocalizations play in hunting?
- Why do you think the Basset Hound is such a popular family dog today?



Basset Hound - France

The charming and instantly recognizable Basset Hound was originally bred in France and Belgium as a scent hound. Friars at the Benedictine abbey of St. Hubert played a part in developing the low-built dogs, who were able to traverse rough terrain as they tracked rabbit and deer.

ACTIVITY:

PLAY "SCENT DETECTIVE"! HIDE A SMALL OBJECT IN THE ROOM AND LET A FRIEND PRETEND TO BE A BASSET HOUND BY SNIFFING AND FINDING IT.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

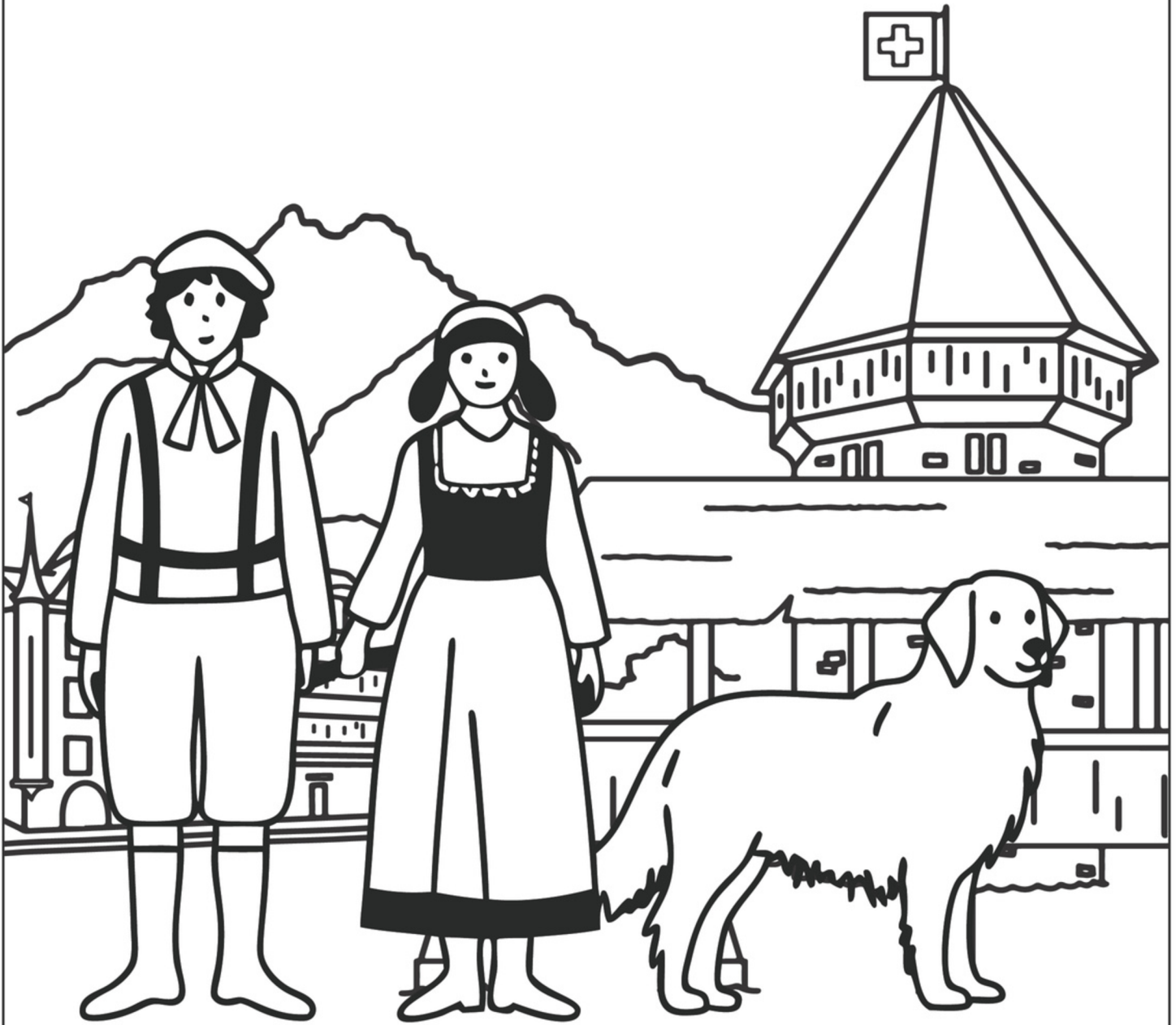
WHY ARE BASSET HOUNDS SO GOOD AT FOLLOWING SMELLS?

6. Bernese Mountain Dog (Switzerland)

The Bernese Mountain Dog, a large and gentle breed, originated in the Swiss Alps, where it was bred for farm work in mountainous terrain. Switzerland's challenging environment required dogs that were strong, versatile, and reliable. Bernese Mountain Dogs were used to herd cattle, pull carts loaded with goods, and guard farmsteads. Their thick, tri-colored coat, with black, white, and rust markings, is double-layered to protect them from the cold Alpine climate. Scientifically, the breed's large, muscular build and broad chest allow it to perform heavy-duty tasks, such as pulling loads weighing up to 1,000 pounds. Despite their size, Bernese Mountain Dogs are known for their calm and friendly temperament, making them excellent companions. Interestingly, this breed has a deep attachment to its family and is particularly gentle with children, which is why they are often called "gentle giants." The Bernese Mountain Dog's working instincts and affectionate nature have made it a beloved symbol of Switzerland's agricultural traditions.

EduSmart!

- How does the Bernese Mountain Dog's thick coat protect it in the Alps?
- Why do you think this breed was used to pull heavy carts and herd cattle?
- What makes the Bernese Mountain Dog both a hardworking and gentle breed?
- How does the breed's size and strength help it perform farm tasks?
- Why do you think Bernese Mountain Dogs form such strong bonds with their families?



Bernese Mountain Dog - Switzerland

Bernese Mountain Dogs originally come from the canton of Bern in west-central Switzerland, where they were bred to drive cattle and guard the farms spread across the region's hilly terrain. They can pull many times their weight, which led to their rising popularity as farm dogs in the U.S. as well, after the first pair was brought into the country by a Kansas farmer in 1926.

ACTIVITY:

DRAW A BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG PULLING A CART. FILL THE CART WITH WHATEVER YOU THINK IT MIGHT CARRY (MILK CANS, CHEESE, FLOWERS, OR SOMETHING FUNNY!).

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOGS STRONG ENOUGH TO PULL CARTS?

7. Bichon Frisé – Spain (Canary Islands)

The Bichon Frisé is a cheerful and playful dog that originated in the Canary Islands, a sunny Spanish archipelago off the coast of Africa. Originally bred as companion dogs, Bichon Frisés were favored by sailors who brought them to mainland Europe, where they became popular in royal courts during the Renaissance. Their curly white coats, resembling fluffy clouds, are hypoallergenic and protect them from the sun in warm climates. Scientifically, their coat structure traps air, giving it a soft texture and contributing to their unique appearance. Bichon Frisés are also highly intelligent and trainable, which made them popular performers in circuses and street acts in history. Despite their small size, they are known for their lively personalities and love of human interaction, which makes them exceptional family pets. Interestingly, their name means “curly-haired dog” in French, reflecting their distinct look and origins.

EduSmart!

- How does the Bichon Frisé’s curly coat protect it in warm climates?
- Why do you think this breed was so popular with sailors and royals?
- What makes the Bichon Frisé a good performer in circuses and street acts?
- How does the breed’s intelligence make it easy to train?
- Why do you think Bichon Frisés are loved as family pets today?



Bichon Frisé - Canary Islands, Spain

Bichon Frisé is French for "curly lap dog," an apt description for this toy dog. While commonly associated with France, the breed originated in the Canary Islands of Spain, where they were used as sailing dogs. By the 13th century, they'd become a favored lapdog in the royal courts of Western Europe.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A CIRCUS POSTER FEATURING A BICHON FRISE DOING TRICKS. ADD ITS NAME, THE TRICKS IT PERFORMS, AND LOTS OF COLORFUL DECORATIONS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

WHAT TRICK WOULD YOU TEACH A BICHON FRISE?

8. Blue Heeler (Australia)

The Blue Heeler, also known as the Australian Cattle Dog, was developed in the 19th century to herd cattle across Australia's vast and rugged outback. This breed was created by crossing European herding dogs with native dingoes, resulting in a tough and adaptable dog suited to the harsh environment. The Blue Heeler's short, dense coat, speckled in shades of blue-gray or red, provides protection from the sun and helps it blend into the dusty landscape. Scientifically, the breed's muscular build and high energy levels are key to its endurance, allowing it to work long hours without tiring. Blue Heelers are also incredibly intelligent and known for their problem-solving skills, making them highly effective at managing stubborn livestock. Interestingly, these dogs have a unique herding technique, often nipping at the heels of cattle to drive them forward, which is where their name comes from. Today, Blue Heelers are valued not only for their work ethic but also for their loyalty and strong bond with their owners.

EduSmart!

- How does the Blue Heeler's coat help it survive in Australia's harsh environment?
- Why do you think this breed's high energy makes it a great herding dog?
- How does the Blue Heeler's intelligence help it manage livestock?
- What makes the breed's herding technique of nipping at cattle's heels unique?
- Why do you think Blue Heelers form strong bonds with their owners?



Blue Heeler - Australia

The blue heeler, officially known as the Australian Cattle Dog, comes from the land down under, originally a cross between imported British Smithfields, Scottish Highland Collies, Dalmatians, and wild dingoes. They get their name for their coat that often turns a blue-gray shade.

ACTIVITY:

MAKE A "CATTLE HERDING GAME." DRAW A FIELD WITH COWS, AND CREATE A MAZE FOR A BLUE HEELER TO GUIDE THE COWS TO THE BARN.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A BLUE HEELER, HOW WOULD YOU GET A STUBBORN COW TO MOVE? WOULD YOU BARK, RUN CIRCLES, OR TRY SOMETHING NEW?

9. Border Collie (Scotland)

The Border Collie, often considered the smartest dog breed in the world, originated in the Scottish Borders, a region of rolling hills and rugged landscapes. This breed was developed to herd sheep in challenging terrains, requiring agility, intelligence, and intense focus. Scientifically, Border Collies have a remarkable ability to understand and execute complex commands, thanks to their exceptional problem-solving skills and memory. Their sharp, penetrating gaze, known as "the eye," is used to control livestock by staring them into submission. Border Collies are also incredibly athletic, with a lean body and strong muscles that allow them to work tirelessly for hours. Interestingly, studies have shown that some Border Collies can understand over 1,000 words, making them one of the most trainable breeds. While they are hardworking on farms, they also thrive in dog sports like agility and obedience, showcasing their unmatched versatility and energy.

EduSmart!

- How does the Border Collie's intelligence help it excel in herding?
- Why is the Border Collie's sharp gaze important for controlling livestock?
- What makes this breed so athletic and tireless in its work?
- How do you think Border Collies' ability to understand many words helps them bond with humans?
- Why do you think Border Collies are considered one of the smartest dog breeds?



Border Collie - Scotland

Border Collies, developed in the Scottish borders as a herding dog, continue their traditional work throughout the world. The breed's lineage can be traced back to old Roman dogs and Viking spitzes, both brought to the British Isles by conquerors.

ACTIVITY:

DRAW A "SHEEP HERDING SCENE." PLACE A BORDER COLLIE IN THE MIDDLE, SURROUNDED BY SHEEP. ADD HILLS, TREES, AND FENCES.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A BORDER COLLIE, HOW WOULD YOU MAKE SURE ALL THE SHEEP STAY TOGETHER? WOULD YOU USE YOUR GAZE, RUN FAST, OR COME UP WITH A SPECIAL TRICK?

10. Boston Terrier (USA)

The Boston Terrier, nicknamed "The American Gentleman," is a small, lively dog breed that originated in Boston, Massachusetts, during the 19th century. This breed was created by crossing Bulldogs with terriers, resulting in a compact dog with a tuxedo-like black-and-white coat and a charming personality. Originally bred for pit fighting, Boston Terriers quickly became beloved companion animals due to their friendly and affectionate nature. Scientifically, their compact skull shape and short muzzle make them a brachycephalic breed, which means they are prone to snorting and snuffling sounds due to their unique airways. Despite their small size, Boston Terriers are full of energy and enjoy playing and socializing with their families. Interestingly, the Boston Terrier was one of the first dog breeds developed in the United States and became the mascot for Boston University, symbolizing the city's rich history and love of this breed.

EduSmart!

- How did crossing Bulldogs with terriers create the Boston Terrier's unique traits?
- Why do you think Boston Terriers transitioned from fighters to family companions?
- What does being a brachycephalic breed mean for Boston Terriers?
- How does the breed's lively and affectionate personality make it a great pet?
- Why do you think the Boston Terrier became an important symbol for its city?



Boston Terrier - Boston, Massachusetts

The Boston Terrier, nicknamed the "American Gentleman," originated in the 1870s as a cross between a bulldog and a white English Terrier. The resulting dog – the ancestor of all modern Boston Terriers – was named Judge, and was sold to a Boston man named William O'Brien. They're the official dog of Massachusetts and the mascot of Boston University.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A "BOWTIE FOR A BOSTON TERRIER." DRAW AND COLOR A STYLISH BOWTIE TO MATCH ITS TUXEDO COAT.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE DESIGNING A PARTY JUST FOR BOSTON TERRIERS, WHAT FUN GAMES OR ACTIVITIES WOULD YOU INCLUDE TO MATCH THEIR PLAYFUL PERSONALITY?

11. Cane Corso (Italy)

The Cane Corso, a powerful and dignified breed, originated in Italy and has a history dating back to ancient Roman times. Descended from Roman war dogs, the Cane Corso was initially used to guard estates, hunt large game like wild boars, and protect livestock. Its name, derived from the Latin cohorts, means "guardian" or "protector," reflecting its traditional roles. The breed's muscular build and sleek, short coat in colors like black, gray, and brindle make it both elegant and intimidating. Scientifically, the Cane Corso has a bite force of over 700 pounds per square inch (psi), one of the strongest among dog breeds, which made it highly effective in its protective duties. Despite its imposing appearance, this breed is known for its loyalty and affectionate nature toward its family. Interestingly, Cane Corsos are also highly intelligent and trainable, making them versatile working dogs in modern times.

EduSmart!

- How did the Cane Corso's role in ancient Rome shape its traits today?
- Why do you think this breed's strength and bite force were important for guarding and hunting?
- How does the breed's loyalty make it a good family protector?
- What makes the Cane Corso both elegant and intimidating?
- Why do you think the Cane Corso remains popular as a working dog?



Cane Corso - Southern Italy

This muscular dog from southern Italy descended from the Roman molosser and was frequently tasked as a night watchdog on farms throughout Basilicata, Campania and Apulia.

ACTIVITY:

CREATE A "GUARD DOG BADGE." DESIGN A SPECIAL BADGE FOR A CANE CORSO TO WEAR THAT SHOWS IT IS A BRAVE AND LOYAL PROTECTOR. ADD SYMBOLS LIKE SHIELDS OR KEYS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

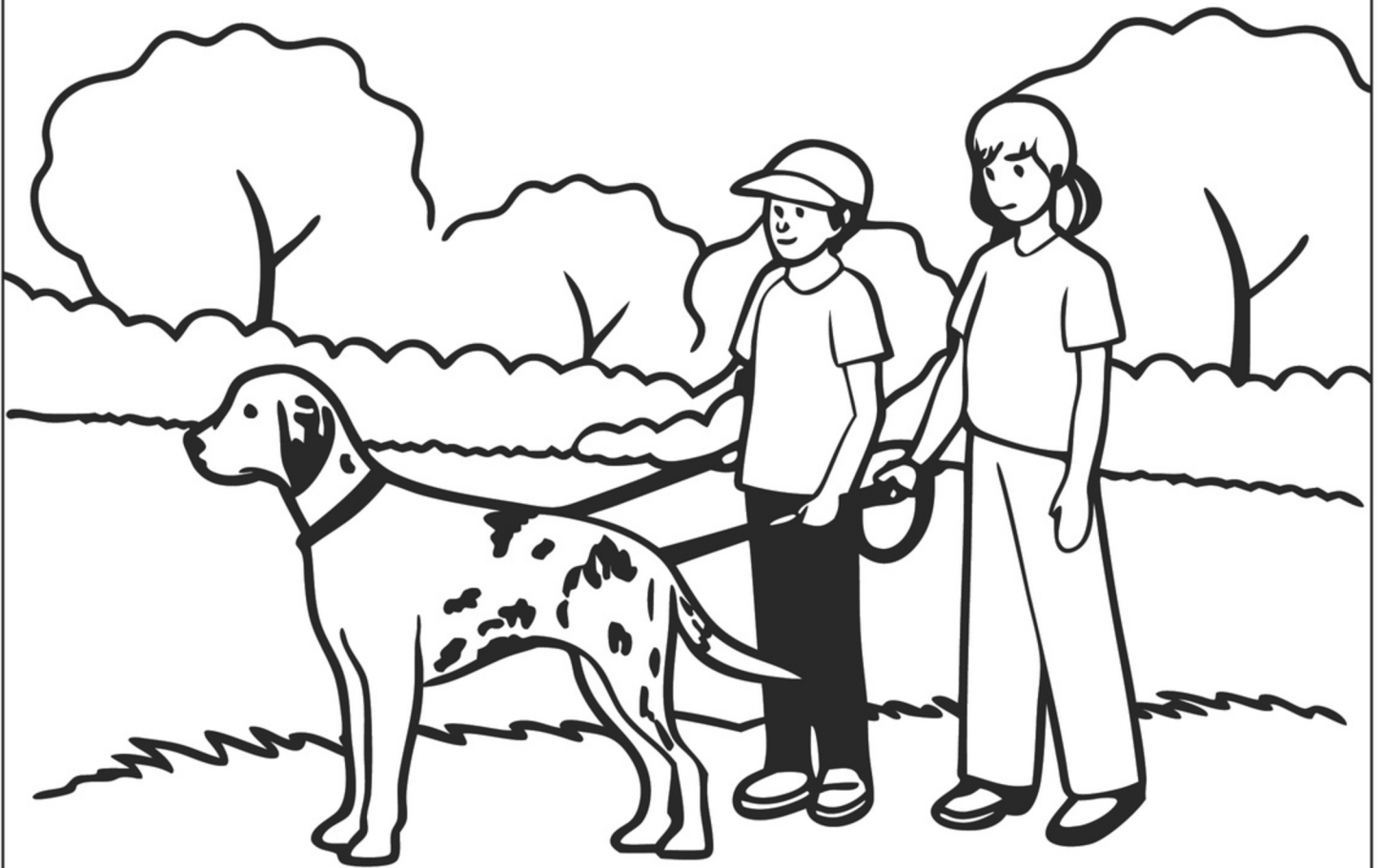
WHAT KIND OF PLACE WOULD YOU WANT A CANE CORSO TO GUARD?

12. Catahoula Leopard Dog (USA)

The Catahoula Leopard Dog, named after Catahoula Parish in Louisiana, is a striking breed with a unique spotted coat and piercing eyes that can be blue, brown, or even marbled. This breed was developed in the swamps and forests of Louisiana to herd livestock, hunt wild game, and navigate difficult terrain. Its origins trace back to Native American dogs that were later bred with European breeds brought by settlers. Scientifically, the Catahoula's webbed feet make it an excellent swimmer, a critical skill for working in Louisiana's marshy environment. Known for its intelligence and independence, the Catahoula Leopard Dog often worked without direct supervision, relying on its instincts to complete tasks. Interestingly, this breed is Louisiana's state dog, symbolizing the region's rugged and resourceful spirit.

EduSmart!

- How does the Catahoula's spotted coat help it blend into its environment?
- Why are the breed's webbed feet important for working in swamps and marshes?
- What qualities make the Catahoula a skilled hunter and herder?
- How does the breed's independence reflect its historical roles?
- Why do you think the Catahoula was chosen as Louisiana's state dog?



Catahoula Leopard Dog - Louisiana

The Catahoula Leopard Dog, the state dog of Louisiana, is likely a cross between dogs brought over by Spanish and French explorers and the dogs kept by Native Americans in Northern Louisiana.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A "SPOTTED ADVENTURE MAP." DRAW A SWAMPY SCENE WITH PATHS, TREES, AND A HIDDEN TREASURE. ADD A CATAHOULA LEOPARD DOG TO GUIDE THE WAY.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

HOW DO THE CATAHOULA'S WEBBED FEET HELP IT WORK IN SWAMPY AREAS?

13. Catalburun (Turkey)

The Catalburun, a rare dog breed from Turkey, is best known for its distinctive split nose, which gives it an extraordinary sense of smell. Originating in the southern region of Turkey, the Catalburun was bred for hunting, particularly birds and small game. Scientifically, its split nose increases the surface area for scent detection, making it one of the most efficient tracking dogs. The breed's sturdy build, short coat, and loyal nature made it an essential companion for hunters in the region's diverse landscapes, from forests to rocky hills. Unlike many other hunting breeds, Catalburuns form strong bonds with their owners, often displaying deep affection and protectiveness. Interestingly, the breed remains relatively unknown outside Turkey, preserving its unique traits and historical significance within its homeland.

EduSmart!

- How does the Catalburun's split nose make it an exceptional tracker?
- Why do you think this breed was particularly useful for hunting birds and small game?
- What makes the Catalburun both a skilled worker and a loyal companion?
- How does Turkey's landscape influence the traits of the Catalburun?
- Why do you think this breed is still rare outside its home country?



Catalburun - Turkey

The Catalburun, or Turkish Pointer, is easily recognized by the deep crease running between its nostrils, making its nose look forked. The breed's history is largely a matter of speculation, but it's mostly found in the Mersin province.

ACTIVITY:

DRAW A "SPLIT NOSE TRACKER." CREATE A PICTURE OF A CATALBURUN TRACKING A HIDDEN BIRD OR TREASURE. ADD LOTS OF DETAILS LIKE A GARDEN OR FOREST WHERE IT'S SEARCHING.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU HAD A CATALBURUN WITH AN INCREDIBLE SENSE OF SMELL, WHAT MYSTERY OR TREASURE HUNT WOULD YOU ASK IT TO SOLVE?

14. Chihuahua (Mexico)

The Chihuahua, one of the smallest dog breeds in the world, originated in Mexico and is named after the Mexican state of Chihuahua. This breed is believed to descend from the ancient Techichi dogs kept by the Toltec and Aztec civilizations. Scientifically, Chihuahuas have a higher metabolic rate than most dog breeds, which contributes to their energetic and lively personalities. Their small size, large ears, and expressive eyes make them instantly recognizable. Historically, Chihuahuas were considered sacred by ancient cultures and were often used in religious ceremonies or buried alongside their owners to guide them in the afterlife. Interestingly, despite their tiny stature, Chihuahuas have a strong sense of confidence and can be quite fearless, a trait that reflects their bold heritage. Today, they are loved worldwide as affectionate and portable companions.

EduSmart!

- How does the Chihuahua's small size make it unique among dog breeds?
- Why do you think ancient civilizations considered Chihuahuas sacred?
- How does the breed's high energy reflect its metabolism?
- What makes the Chihuahua both tiny and fearless?
- Why do you think this breed has remained popular for centuries?



Chihuahua - Mexico

The tiny Chihuahua has become a symbol of Mexico in a big way. The Chihuahua is among the oldest breeds in the Americas, dating back to pre-Columbian times - you can spot similar dogs on artifacts from lost civilizations.

ACTIVITY:

MAKE A "TINY DOG FIESTA." DRAW A CHIHUAHUA IN A FUN MEXICAN SCENE, LIKE WEARING A SOMBRERO OR SITTING NEXT TO TACOS AND MARIGOLDS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU HAD A CHIHUAHUA AS YOUR TINY TRAVEL BUDDY, WHAT FUN PLACES WOULD YOU EXPLORE TOGETHER, AND HOW WOULD ITS SMALL SIZE BE HELPFUL?

15. Chow Chow (China)

The Chow Chow, one of the most ancient dog breeds, originated in China over 2,000 years ago. Recognizable by its lion-like mane and unique blue-black tongue, the Chow Chow was used for various purposes, including guarding temples, hunting, and even pulling carts. Scientifically, the Chow Chow's dense double coat, which can be red, black, blue, or cream, helps it adapt to both cold and warm climates. The breed's blue-black tongue is a genetic trait shared with only a few other animals, including the giraffe. Historically, Chow Chows were highly valued by Chinese nobility and were often depicted in ancient artwork. Interestingly, the breed is known for its independent and sometimes aloof personality, which makes it more like a cat than a typical dog. Despite this, Chow Chows are deeply loyal to their families and are excellent guardians.

EduSmart!

- How does the Chow Chow's dense coat help it adapt to different climates?
- Why do you think the Chow Chow's blue-black tongue is such a unique feature?
- How does the breed's history as a guard dog shape its behavior today?
- What makes the Chow Chow's personality similar to that of a cat?
- Why do you think Chow Chows were favored by Chinese nobility?



Chow Chow - Northern China

In China, where this breed originates, the Chow Chow is known as the Songshi-Quan, or "puffy lion dog." Evidence of the breed dates back to the Han Dynasty, but Chows likely go back much further. Throughout their history, they've served as companion dogs to Chinese nobility (one Tang Dynasty emperor was said to have 5,000 Chows), haulers and hunters.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A "LION DOG CROWN." DRAW A CHOW CHOW WITH A ROYAL CROWN THAT SHOWS ITS DIGNIFIED HISTORY. ADD DETAILS LIKE JEWELS OR CHINESE PATTERNS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

WHAT MAKES THE CHOW CHOW'S LION-LIKE MANE SPECIAL?

16. Dachshund (Germany)

The Dachshund, often called the “wiener dog” because of its long body and short legs, was originally bred in Germany during the 16th century. Its name means “badger dog” in German (dachs for badger and hund for dog), reflecting its primary role as a hunter of badgers and other burrowing animals. Scientifically, the Dachshund’s elongated body and strong claws are adaptations that allow it to dig into burrows and navigate tight underground spaces. Its keen sense of smell and tenacious personality made it an excellent tracker and hunter. Dachshunds come in three coat types: smooth, long-haired, and wire-haired, each suited to different hunting environments. Interestingly, Dachshunds have a strong prey drive and fearless attitude, which contrasts with their small size. Today, while they are more commonly kept as family pets, their bold personality and playful nature continue to charm dog lovers worldwide.

EduSmart!

- How does the Dachshund’s long body help it hunt animals like badgers?
- Why do you think the breed’s name reflects its original hunting purpose?
- What makes the Dachshund’s three coat types suited for different environments?
- How does the breed’s fearless personality help it as a hunter?
- Why do you think Dachshunds are still popular as pets today?



Dachshund - Germany

"Dachshund" means "badger dog" in German, and the breed was originally developed to dig into badger dens some 600 years ago. Anti-German sentiment during World War I led the breed in the U.S. to be called "liberty hounds" for a time.

ACTIVITY:

DRAW A "BURROWING ADVENTURE." SHOW A DACHSHUND DIGGING UNDERGROUND TO FIND A HIDDEN ANIMAL. ADD TUNNELS, DIRT, AND MAYBE SOME TREASURE!

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A DACHSHUND, WHAT CLEVER WAY WOULD YOU USE YOUR LONG BODY AND SHORT LEGS TO EXPLORE A HIDDEN TUNNEL?

17. Dalmatian (Croatia)

The Dalmatian, a breed known for its striking white coat with black or brown spots, originated in Croatia, specifically in the Dalmatian region along the Adriatic Sea. Historically, Dalmatians were used as carriage dogs, running alongside horse-drawn carriages to protect travelers from bandits and wild animals. Scientifically, the Dalmatian's athletic build and strong endurance make it capable of covering long distances with ease. Interestingly, the breed is also born completely white, with its iconic spots developing as it grows older—a unique genetic trait. Dalmatians were later adopted by fire brigades to clear the way for fire wagons, cementing their reputation as loyal and dependable working dogs. Today, they are celebrated for their high energy, intelligence, and strong bond with their families, as well as their continued association with firefighting traditions.

EduSmart!

- Why do you think Dalmatians were ideal for running alongside carriages?
- How does the breed's athletic build help it cover long distances?
- What makes the Dalmatian's spotted coat unique compared to other breeds?
- Why were Dalmatians used by fire brigades in the past?
- How do the breed's traits make it both a working dog and a great companion?



Dalmatian - Croatia

While the original origins of this beloved spotted dog are contested, they certainly became popular along the Adriatic Sea in the area known as Dalmatia. Dalmatians are classified as coach dogs, whose traditional job was to protect horse-drawn carriages of the Romani people.

ACTIVITY:

CREATE A "SPOTTED PARADE SCENE." DRAW DALMATIANS RUNNING ALONGSIDE A FIRE WAGON OR CARRIAGE. ADD LOTS OF SPOTS AND A COLORFUL CROWD.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A DALMATIAN RUNNING WITH A FIRE WAGON, HOW WOULD YOU HELP GUIDE IT THROUGH A BUSY STREET TO SAVE THE DAY?

18. English Bulldog (England)

The English Bulldog, with its wrinkled face, muscular build, and distinctive underbite, originated in England and has a history tied to bull-baiting, a now-outlawed sport. Bred for strength and tenacity, the Bulldog's stocky frame and powerful jaw were suited for gripping and holding bulls. Scientifically, Bulldogs have a brachycephalic skull, meaning their short muzzle can make breathing challenging, especially in hot weather, though this feature adds to their iconic appearance. Over time, breeders transformed the Bulldog from a fierce fighting dog into a gentle, affectionate companion. Despite its tough exterior, the Bulldog is known for its calm and friendly nature, making it a popular family pet. Interestingly, the English Bulldog is often regarded as a symbol of resilience and determination, qualities that resonate with England's cultural identity.

EduSmart!

- How does the English Bulldog's muscular build reflect its history in bull-baiting?
- What challenges do Bulldogs face because of their short muzzles?
- Why do you think the breed's temperament changed from fierce to gentle over time?
- What makes the Bulldog both tough-looking and affectionate?
- Why do you think the English Bulldog is considered a symbol of resilience?



English Bulldog - England

The ancestors of the modern bulldog were used in the grisly sport of bull-baiting, which was banned in England in 1835. Breeders began developing the dog from a big-jawed brawler to the friendly companion dog we know today. While the bulldog has long been a symbol of England, it's also a popular mascot in the U.S. Handsome Dan at Yale is believed to be the first animal mascot in sports.

ACTIVITY:

DESIGN A "BULLDOG TROPHY." DRAW A TROPHY FOR AN ENGLISH BULLDOG TO CELEBRATE ITS STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION. ADD BULLDOG FACES OR PAWS AS DECORATIONS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE AN ENGLISH BULLDOG, HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR STRENGTH AND DETERMINATION TO HELP OUT IN A TRICKY SITUATION?

19. Finnish Spitz (Finland)

The Finnish Spitz, with its reddish-golden fur and fox-like face, is Finland's national dog and has a history as a hunting companion in the country's dense forests. This breed was originally developed to help hunters locate birds by barking to signal their presence. Scientifically, the Finnish Spitz has a sharp, high-pitched bark and a natural instinct to focus on prey, traits that make it highly effective in its role. Its double coat, with a dense undercoat and a protective outer layer, keeps it warm in Finland's cold winters. Interestingly, the breed is so skilled at barking that competitions are held in Finland to judge the quality of a Finnish Spitz's bark—a tradition that honors the dog's hunting heritage. Known for its lively and friendly personality, the Finnish Spitz is also a loyal family companion.

EduSmart!

- How does the Finnish Spitz's coat protect it in Finland's cold forests?
- Why do you think this breed's barking skills are important for hunting?
- What makes the Finnish Spitz's fox-like appearance unique?
- How do competitions that judge barking reflect Finland's appreciation for this breed?
- Why do you think the Finnish Spitz is considered Finland's national dog?



Finnish Spitz - Finland

The national dog of Finland has been around in its home country, mostly as a hunting dog, for more than 3,000 years. The dog's distinctive quick bark (up to 160 barks a minute) and acute sense of smell make them particularly good for hunting game birds.

ACTIVITY:

MAKE A "BARKING CONTEST MEDAL." DRAW A SHINY MEDAL WITH BARKING SYMBOLS (LIKE SOUND WAVES) TO CELEBRATE THE FINNISH SPITZ'S BARKING SKILLS.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A FINNISH SPITZ, HOW WOULD YOU USE YOUR SPECIAL BARK TO HELP A HUNTER FIND THEIR WAY IN THE FOREST?

20. Belgian Malinois (Belgium)

The Belgian Malinois, a sleek and intelligent dog, originated in Belgium and was one of four herding breeds developed for managing livestock. Known for its tan coat with black markings and sharp features, the Malinois is a highly versatile working dog. Scientifically, the breed's muscular build, quick reflexes, and high endurance make it ideal for demanding tasks like police work, search-and-rescue missions, and military service. The Malinois has an exceptional ability to learn and execute complex commands, a trait linked to its high intelligence and trainability. Historically, this breed was used on Belgian farms to herd sheep, but its adaptability allowed it to take on new roles in modern times. Interestingly, the Malinois is now one of the top choices for security and detection work worldwide, thanks to its keen sense of smell and unwavering focus.

EduSmart!

- How does the Belgian Malinois's build make it suitable for herding and protection work?
- Why do you think this breed's intelligence and trainability are highly valued?
- What makes the Malinois one of the top choices for police and military roles?
- How do you think the breed transitioned from a farm dog to a modern working dog?
- Why do you think the Belgian Malinois is often trusted for important tasks like search-and-rescue?



Malinois - Belgium

You might recognize the Malinois, named after the Flemish city of Mechelen (Malines in French), as the dogs tasked with guarding the White House grounds alongside their Secret Service companions (they're also frequent choices for police and military K-9s). The breed originated in northwestern Belgium as a herding dog. A memorial to military dogs in Fayetteville, North Carolina depicts a Belgian Malinois.

ACTIVITY:

CREATE A "MISSION MAP." DRAW A BELGIAN MALINOIS ON A SEARCH-AND-RESCUE MISSION. ADD OBSTACLES LIKE MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, OR BUILDINGS TO SHOW ITS PATH.

CHALLENGE QUESTION:

IF YOU WERE A BELGIAN MALINOIS WORKING WITH A POLICE OFFICER, WHAT SPECIAL SKILL WOULD YOU USE TO HELP SOLVE A MYSTERY?

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