

LESSON PLANS

Simple ■ Student Friendly ■ Accessible

OBJECTIVES

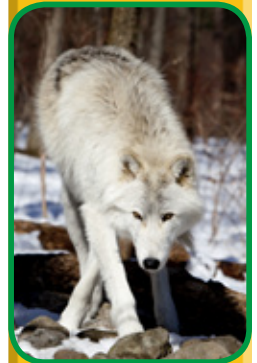
Students will:

- Discuss reasons that humans domesticated wolves;
- Review examples of how dogs have been bred and trained to help humans; and
- Write about how dogs perform a particular task.

PROCEDURES

- 1 Review with the class **how dogs evolved** from wolves. Discuss examples from the video of early ways that dogs were domesticated. (Maremmas were domesticated as herders. Basset hounds were trained to be hunters.) Ask students to think of other ways that dogs have helped humans throughout history.
- 2 Ask students to brainstorm how **dogs are trained** to help people today. Make a list on the board, using such examples as:
 - Guide dogs for the blind
 - Hearing dogs for the deaf
 - Service dogs for the physically disabled
 - Police dogs that detect drugs or bombs
 - Dogs that help sniff out termites in buildings
 - Dogs that detect fire accelerants
 - Help cheer up hospital patients
 - Locate humans at disaster scenes
 - Dogs that herd sheep and cattle
 - Detect certain cancers in humans
 - Sled dogs in Arctic regions
 - Guard dogs for homes and businesses
 - Army Scout dogs that warn of danger
- 3 Have students choose one way that dogs help humans. Challenge them to learn more about how dogs perform this task. Have them consider these questions: How do the dogs help humans? How are dogs trained to perform this task? What kinds of dog breeds are often used for this task? What qualities make this breed (or dogs in general) well suited for this task?
- 4 Have students **conduct research** using print and online resources. Students may find many sites related to their research, but the following are a good starting point:
 - Guide Dogs of America: Training
 - Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. (see “Guide Dog Training”)
 - Dogs for the Deaf, Inc.(see “Our Dogs”)
 - Assistance Dogs International Inc. (see links about guide dogs, hearing dogs, and service dogs)
 - Sled Dogs: An Alaskan Epic
 - International Association of Assistance Dog Partners (see “Educate”)
 - Yahoooligans: Service Dog Links
- 5 Once students have completed their initial research, ask them to **summarize their findings** in a report that’s no more than one page.
- 6 Have students share their reports with another student and answer questions their partner may have. Then have each student summarize their partner’s report for the class, sharing at least three interesting facts.

ADAPTING TO THE WORLD



GRADES 6-8

Use *Grzimek's Animal Life* to enhance the lesson

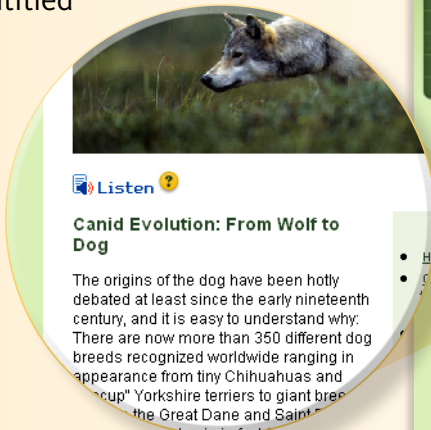
Intuitive, in-depth and easy to access, *Grzimek's Animal Life* supports lesson plans and enhances classroom assignments.

STEP 1

Review how dogs evolved

Comprehensive overview

Have students read the article from *Grzimek's Animal Life* entitled "Canid Evolution: From Wolf to Dog." This article explains many popular theories on how wolves evolved from wild animals into domestic dogs.



STEPS 2-3

Discuss how dogs are trained

Engaging articles

Use examples from *Grzimek's Animal Life* of dogs helping humans. You'll find articles such as:

- "An aide for the disabled, a companion, and nice and furry" (New York Times, Aug. 22, 2009)
- "Dog finds lost dolphins" (National Geographic Kids, Aug. 2007)
- "Turning to rescue dogs for warnings on health" (New York Times, Apr. 2, 2002)
- "Rescue dogs" (Smithsonian, Sept 2007)
- "Lifesaving companion repays runner" (USA Today, Feb. 7, 2007)
- "Blinded by Nazis, guided by a dog" (USA Today, July 29, 2009)



STEPS 4-5

Summarize the findings

Easy downloads

Students can easily access articles and images from *Grzimek's Animal Life*. They can download, print, save, e-mail and use other share tools to facilitate a successful paper or presentation.

