

MILITARY ANIMALS

Lesson Plan

Class Mascot

Lesson Plan for *Military Animal Mascots*

Grade 4

Objective

To help students identify key details in a text about military mascots and use this information to create a mascot of their own.

Things Needed

- *Military Animal Mascots* book
- Paper and pencils
- Computer access for students

Before the Activity

Read the *Military Animal Mascots* book out loud to students.

Activity

Animal mascots play an important role in the military. The book describes several roles mascots may play and ways they can help soldiers. Ask students to list some of these roles, explaining what the animals do or why this role is beneficial. Use the following sample answers as a guide:

- Role 1: Represent history or remind soldiers of things from the past (p. 7)
- Role 2: Inspire soldiers by symbolizing traits they admire or what they're fighting for (p. 7)
- Role 3: Be good luck, which helps soldiers be brave (p. 7)
- Role 4: Remind soldiers of home, which helps them be less lonely (p. 7)
- Role 5: Take part in military events that display military skill (p. 18)
- Role 6: Provide comfort or calm as pets or therapy animals (p. 21)

Ask each student to choose one of these roles and think of a mascot that could perform this role for the class. Students should write a paragraph about this mascot. The paragraph should include the following information:



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- the mascot's name
- the kind of animal it would be
- what role it would have for the class
- what about the animal (its looks, abilities, or other traits) would help it perform this role

Students should create posters explaining their mascots. Each poster should include a typed version of the student's paragraph, as well as a photo or drawing of the animal.

Evaluation

Collect the posters and give each student up to 7 points:

- 1 point for including the mascot's name
- 1 point for describing the kind of animal
- 1 point for stating the animal's role
- 2 points for explaining what would help the animal perform this role
- 1 point for using good spelling and grammar
- 1 point for including a relevant image

Standards

This lesson plan may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational texts, grade 4 (RI 4.1), and writing standards, grade 4 (W 4.4, 4.6).



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