

History and Art - Rewarding Animals for bravery

Main Welfare Aims:

To recognise the importance of animals in both World Wars and why we should care for and respect them.

Curriculum Links

Key Stage 2

History:

- a study of an aspect or theme in British history that extends pupils' chronological knowledge beyond 1066

Art:

- to improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials [for example, pencil, charcoal, paint, clay]

Resources Needed:

- Images of wartime medals.
- Images of animal wartime medals.
- Worksheet provided.
- Paper.
- Pencils, colouring pencils, paint, clay or plasticine.

Rewarding animals for Bravery

Introduction

Ask the children to research different war medals online and to find any stories about soldiers who received medals. Feedback as a class and discuss why people would have been awarded medals in the war.

Explain that just like people got medals in the war, animals got medals for heroism and bravery too.

Ask the children to research online about any animals that received awards in the wars and to find out their stories. Share any research as a class. If they need some guidance you could suggest they research the story of Cher Ami, La Cloche or Bamse the St Bernard.

Main:

Look at the two medals given by the Blue Cross to animals that served in Wars on the worksheet and discuss as a class.

Ask the children to design their own war medal. They can design it using the template given below or design it completely from scratch themselves. Once they have designed their medal on paper, they could then use plasticine or clay to create the medal.

Plenary

Share the medals the children have produced as a class and ask them to explain why they have designed it this way.

Using the worksheet ask the children to write a short paragraph explaining:

- What your medal is for
- Why you have designed this way
- What you did to design it, What did you use?

Worksheet

Look at the two medals given by the Blue Cross to animals that served in Wars.



Task 1:

Thinking about the research you have done and the medals you have seen, design a new medal for animals that have helped and served in the war.

It can be any shape you want but it must be clear that it is an award for an animal and must honour the work they did for us in the war.

Task 2:

Write a short paragraph explaining:

- What is your medal for?
- Why have you designed it this way?
- What did you use?

Activity 1:
Medal template

