

# ANIMALS IN WAR



## **Lesson: One hour**

The centenary of the First World War is an ideal opportunity to look at the role of animals during this time.

This is the first of two lessons, looking at the role of animals in the conflict.

## **Aims and Objectives:**

- Know how many different species of animal were involved in WWI.
- Discuss the roles of animals and identify key facts about their involvement in the war.

- How many different species of animals were involved in World War One?
- Which species contributed most to the war effort and how & why?
- Write your ideas in the paw print.



Project the image of the paw print and questions onto the white board and invite students to come and write their responses onto the board with their name/initials next to them. Encourage all students to make at least one contribution each.

# Animals in WWI

1. What happened to many of the dogs after the wars end?
2. How many kilometres could a messenger dog travel in a period of 1-2 hours?
3. Which two dangerous obstacles did the dogs have to travel through or over?
4. Which other popular household pet was a mascot for soldiers during the war?
5. What roles did dogs undertake in the war?
6. What were pigeons used for in the war, how many were used on the Western Front?
7. Why were camels used instead of horses during the First World War?
8. What were the two main causes of death for animals during the war?
9. What role did mice and canaries play in the war?
10. Where did the army get many of their horses for the war?
11. List the three main jobs that horses were used for in the war.
12. Name two new weapons that made cavalry charges extremely dangerous.

## Answers to questions

- A1: Given back were possible to the owner
- A2: Trained to return to their keeper's station, messenger dogs could cover 16 - 24 kilometres in one to two hours.
- A3: Mud, Trenches,
- A4: Cat
- A5: Messenger, Guard, Haulage, Red Cross.
- A6: Messenger – about 250,000
- A7: Native to the area better suited to that environment, need less water.
- A8: cold, hunger, exhaustion and disease
- A9: Detection of gas and bad air- during tunnelling.
- A10: Farms, industrial,
- A11: cavalry, transporting supplies, pulling artillery
- A12: machine guns and explosive shells