Lesson Plan

Amazing Animals Who Changed the World

Story Summary

Little Heroes: Amazing Animals Who Changed the World is an introduction to the incredible animals who taught us that you don't have to be big (or human) to make a difference. Simple text and adorable illustrations tell the contributions of nine animals who went down in history as interspecies heroes: Blossom the vaccine cow, Stubby the war dog, Cher Ami the carrier pigeon, Winnie the friendly bear, Simon the seacat, Togo the sled dog, Able and Baker the space monkeys, and Koko the signing gorilla.

Book Information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Run Time</th>
<th>11:33</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Author</td>
<td>Heidi Poelman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrator</td>
<td>Kyle Kershner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Narrator</td>
<td>Ashton Sundholm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publisher</td>
<td>Familius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ages</td>
<td>2–9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Genre</td>
<td>Nonfiction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Structure</td>
<td>Text divided into separate stories about each amazing animal's courageous acts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Themes &amp; Ideas</td>
<td>animals, rescues, historical events, courage, making a difference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Language &amp; Literary Features</td>
<td>Many specific terms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vocabulary</td>
<td>disease, vaccine, mascot, medics, salute, carrier pigeons, enlisted, diphtheria, serum, morale, infestation, celebrity, mammal, exploration, international, cosmonaut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Vocabulary</td>
<td>Courage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illustrations</td>
<td>Colorful, adorable artwork illustrations of the animals and the people who helped them achieve their courageous acts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lesson Focus

Amazing Animals

Activity Ideas

Secret Code
Create a secret code message to deliver to one of your friends.

Poster
Create a poster about one of the animals and the difference it made.

Zoo
Visit a zoo.

Read
Read Winnie the Pooh.

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.
Amazing Animals Who Changed the World

*Amazing Animals Who Changed the World* is an introduction to the incredible animals who taught us that you don’t have to be big (or human) to make a difference. Simple text and adorable illustrations tell the contributions of nine animals who went down in history as interspecies heroes: Blossom the vaccine cow, Stubby the war dog, Cher Ami the carrier pigeon, Winnie the friendly bear, Simon the seacat, Togo the sled dog, Able and Baker the space monkeys, and Koko the signing gorilla.

**What is *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World* about?**

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

**How do the animals show courage in *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World*?**

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

**What kinds of changes do the animals make in *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World*?**

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________

**Which animal do you think showed the most courage in *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World*? Why?**

_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
_____________________________________________________________________________________________
Vooks Pause & Ponder

**Amazing Animals Who Changed the World**

1:18
Why are vaccines important?

3:47
What are some other ways to get messages to people?

4:25
What would it be like to have a bear for a pet?

4:45
Have you ever been to a zoo? What was it like?

7:03
How is a sled dog different from a pet dog?

8:19
Do you have a pet? If you do, what is it like to have a pet. If not, what kind of pet might you like to have and why?

9:07
What do you think outer space is like?

10:41
Have you ever been able to tell what an animal was feeling? How? How can you tell what a person is feeling?

**After viewing the Book:**

1. Choose an animal mascot for your family. Explain why you chose that animal.

2. What was your favorite fact that you learned from *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World*?

3. What makes you unique?
Fact Sheet

Blossom the Cow
- In 1796 Sarah Nelmes and her cow, Blossom, both became sick with cowpox.
- Dr. Edward Jenner purposely gave a boy cowpox and it protected him from smallpox.
- Dr. Jenner, Sarah, and Blossom helped eliminate smallpox.

Sergeant Stubby
- A stray puppy who found his way to Robert Conroy during WWI.
- Could salute the soldiers, alert soldiers to dangerous gas attacks, help medics find the wounded, and comfort injured men.
- In 1921, when Robert Conroy went to study law at Georgetown University, Stubby came along with him and became the school mascot.

Cher Ami the Carrier Pigeon
- Delivered 12 secret messages across long distances during WWI.
- Helped in the rescue of 194 soldiers known as “The Lost Battalion”.
- During World War I, the US Army enlisted the help of about 600 carrier pigeon to deliver secret messages.

Winnie the Bear
- Harry Colebourne, a soldier, bought her for $20 and named her Winnie after his hometown of Winnipeg.
- Her friendship with Christopher Robin led Christopher’s father to write Winnie the Pooh.
- The real Christopher Robin actually had a teddy bear he named Winnie.

Togo the Sled Dog
- In 1925, diphtheria broke out in the Alaskan village of Nome.
- Led a team of sled dogs on a long and dangerous stretch of 261 miles to deliver life saving serum.
- Together with other sled teams, Togo completed a relay of about 675 miles to save a village of 1,400 people.

Seacat Simon
- Smuggled on a British Royal Navy ship in 1948 by a sailor.
- Had a special ability to comfort wounded sailors and boost morale.
- Wiped out a major infestation of rats on the ship.

Able and Baker, the Space Monkeys
- In 1959, they flew on a Jupiter missile 360 miles above the earth at a speed of 10,000 miles per hour.
- Proved that mammals could survive space flight.
- Because of them, scientists moved forward with space exploration.

Koko the Signing Gorilla
- Penny Patterson taught her more than a thousand signs in sign language.
- Showed emotions after her cat died.
- Forever changed our understanding of how much humans have in common with animals.
**Drawing and Writing**

Draw a picture of your favorite animal that change the world and finish the sentence below.

My favorite animal(s) was ____________________________.

I liked the animal(s) because ______________________________________

_________________________________________________________.
Amazing Animal Matching

Match the illustration with the animal’s name from *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World*. Draw a line to connect the two.

- Blossom the Cow
- Able and Baker, the Space Monkeys
- Cher Ami the Carrier Pigeon
- Seacat Simon
- Togo the Sled Dog
- Koko the Signing Gorilla
Pick three of the animals from *Amazing Animals Who Changed the World* and write three facts that you learned about each animal. You can find facts from the story or through research on your own.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Animal</th>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>3.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Amazing Animal Research