

History of Guide Dogs

A History (comparison) resource
for 5 to 11-year-olds

For further information about Guide Dogs or for more
learning resources visit [guidedogs.org.uk/learning](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/learning)

Welcome to the History of Guide Dogs resource

This pack contains a series of activities (which you can pick and choose from) about the history of Guide Dogs in the UK and the impact of World War 1, which led to the forming of guide dog charities across the world. The resources are suitable for 5 to 11-year-olds. The content has been written to meet the requirements of the History curriculums for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. It also supports group work and discussion, creativity and writing skills development, thinking, communication and ICT.

About Guide Dogs

Since 1931, Guide Dogs has been there for people with sight loss and those around them – every day and every step of the way. Today, we lead the world in breeding and training working dogs, creating unique and carefully matched partnerships that provide life changing support. But there's so much more to us than that.

As we've grown, so have our services, provided by brilliant and dedicated people working alongside our fantastic dogs. We create partnerships with sighted guides, and connections with trusted advisors, who can offer support to people with a vision impairment, their family, and their friends. We're dedicated to helping children and young people with sight loss learn, grow and access the same opportunities as everyone else. And when needed we can partner people with buddy or companion dogs and bring people together to support each other and share their experiences.

From training puppies to offering advice on the latest accessible technology, from raising vital funds to driving ground-breaking research, our staff, volunteers – and donors – have given thousands the help they need to live the life they choose. To find out more about all of our services, visit

[guidedogs.org.uk](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk)

**1931
2021**

Guide Dogs
90 Years

Curriculum links

England

KS1 – Awareness of the past, common words and phrases • Chronological frameworks • identify similarities and differences • significant Historical events • ways we find out about the past.

KS2 – chronological knowledge • WW1 • connections, contrasts, and trends over time • use of historical terms • Change, cause, similarity and difference, and significance • knowledge of the past is from a range of sources.

Scotland

First level – compare aspects of people's daily lives in the past with my own.

Second level – compare and contrast a society in the past with my own – discuss why people and events from a particular time in the past were important, placing them within a historical sequence.

Northern Ireland

The world around us
KS1 – How people and places have changed over time • differences between my life and lives of people in the past • different types of transport now and in the past • how goods and services have changed over time.

KS2 – Explore: Reasons for and effects of historical events (World Wars) • places then and now • influences from the local and wider world • distinctive features of life in the past • how the world has changed over time.

Wales

Foundation phase – Time and people • past times and events • vocabulary to describe different periods • why people did things, why events happened and consequences • interpreting the past through stories • the influence of past events.

KS2 – Using timelines • describe the passage of time • discuss ways of life at different times • significant events, cause, and effect • interpretation.

Keywords

History • World War 1 • gas • Britain • veteran • then • now • modern • past • changes • historical • old • World War 2 • compare • timeline • chronological • recent • cause.

Introduction

Introduce your class to Guide Dogs, with this video [We are Guide Dogs](#)



Activity 1 – History Detectives

Ask the whole class to help you sort the following list of terms into two columns, how we describe the past and present. The class may want to add others.

- | | | |
|----------|-----------|------------|
| • Then | • Old | • Present |
| • Now | • History | • The Past |
| • Modern | • Recent | • Ancient |

Explain to the class they need to be detectives for this next activity. Using worksheet 1, look at the pictures, some are from recent times and some show the past and items that were used in 1931, when Guide Dogs started. Can you label them then or now?

Extension activity – Discuss life in 1931:

- How have some of the items changed over time?
- What would people do for fun or entertainment in 1931 (books, comics, radio, outdoor games) (no computer games, You Tube, TV) What's the same?
- How easy would it have been to travel to school, work or on holiday?
- What would life have been like for a child in 1931? (Less food due to high unemployment, fewer cars on the road, strict discipline in schools, finishing school at aged 14).



Activity 2 – History of Guide Dogs (reading and writing)

In pairs or as a small group. Use worksheet 2 and the optional **Guide Dogs timeline video**. Ask the class to read the passage about the beginnings of the charity Guide Dogs and fill in the blanks with the correct words.

Extension activity discussion – How has Guide Dogs changed from 1931 to now? What has remained the same?

Optional – Watch **Nell's video**.

Activity 3 – Timeline of events

(aged 7+ in small groups, under 7 as a class)

Using worksheet 3, the Timeline cards and the optional **Guide Dogs timeline video**. Ask the class to work in groups, can they cut out each description and find the correct point on the timeline (chronological order). Review answers as a class.

Answers for teachers - 12,000 BC – Dogs domesticated, 79 Roman mural, 1200 – medieval art, 1780 – “Les Quinze-Vigts” hospital, 1847– Jakob Birrer, 1914–18 World War 1, 1931 Guide Dogs U.K, 1934 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 1940 – World War 2, 1956 Puppy scheme, 2013 My Sighted Guide, 2017 Children and Young People.

Extension activity – In small groups or as a class, look up the historical images that support the timeline. Search the term “Roman guide dog” and “Medieval guide dog”. Discuss what we can interpret and where the images appear (books, on walls, in ruins).

Activity 4 – Create a poster or News article

Ask your class to imagine they are living in 1931, mind map on the board, how they would create a poster or a news article to advertise the new charity Guide Dogs. What information/ features would they include – who do they help and how?

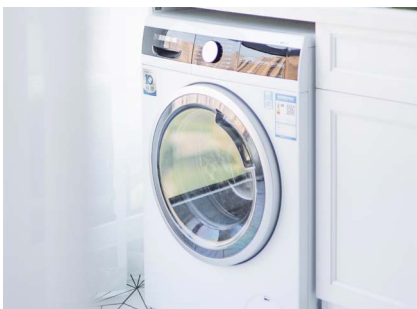
Part two –

Ask them each to design a poster or create a news article.



Worksheet 1 – History detectives

The charity Guide Dogs, began training dogs to help people with sight loss in 1931. Imagine you are a history detective; your task is to compare the images and decide which pictures are from recent times and which pictures show the past. Write the word “then” under pictures showing life in the past (1931) and write the word “now” for pictures that show life today.



Worksheet 2 – The History of guide dogs in the UK

Fill in the blanks using the words below.

bombings

raid

Germany

training

young

puppies

eyesight

breeder

dog

world

volunteer

delightful

freedom

trial

food

raised

During the First _____ War, many soldiers and factory workers were exposed to mustard gas or shell explosions, which caused them to lose their _____ .

This led to the first guide dog school starting in _____ after a doctor looking after war-wounded patients, discovered that his dog behaved well with one of the men who was blind. In 1931 Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond, read a story about guide dogs and arranged for a _____ scheme to run in Britain.

Training of the first four British guide _____ owners began in the late summer of 1931 in Wallasey, Cheshire. They finished their _____ in October 1931.

In 1932, six months after getting his guide dog, Allen Caldwell, wrote, 'Flash has revolutionised my outdoor life.' 'Not only has my dog given me glorious _____ and independence, never known since pre-war days, but _____ companionship.'

During the Second World War the training had to move to Leamington Spa because Wallasey suffered many _____ and wasn't safe. Arrangements had to be made for guide dogs to be allowed into air _____ shelters and there were also special allowances made for cereal dog _____ .

As Guide Dogs grew, they needed more dogs, so in 1956 specially selected _____ were purchased and placed with 'Raisers' who looked after them. By 1958 nearly 60 puppies were being _____ .

Today, Guide Dogs UK is the world's largest _____ and trainer of working dogs. The charity also supports children and _____ people with sight loss through a range of services and has other services for adults including My Sighted Guide, which matches a person with sight loss with a _____ , who helps them get out and about safely.

Worksheet 3 –Timeline of Guide Dogs

Across the centuries there have been many images and references to dogs helping their blind owners. In the 20th Century formal training centres were set up across the world, including the UK, where dogs were harnessed and used as guides. Use the timeline to show the chronological history of the relationship between humans and dogs as guides and how Guide Dogs has changed over time.

Timeline cards

Cut the cards and place them in the timeline

World War 1 which re-sparks an interest in guide dogs due to so many young men being blinded.	First attempt to formally train guide dogs at "Les Quinze-Vigts" hospital for the blind in Paris.	Medieval art shows an image of a blind person with a stick being led by a dog.
Guide Dogs puppy raising scheme starts.	World War 2 causes Guide Dogs to move to Leamington Spa.	The first four people train with their guide dogs in the UK.
A mural from Roman Herculaneum (Pompeii) shows a blind person being led by a dog.	The My Sighted Guide service starts – helping people with sight loss get out and about with a volunteer.	Jakob Birrer, writes about being guided by a dog he had specially trained.
Guide Dogs and Blind Children UK merge into one and Guide Dogs Children and Young People services start.	Dogs first start to be domesticated by humans.	The title "The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association" is used for the first time.

Worksheet 3 - Timeline of Guide Dogs

12,000BC
(14,200 years ago)

79AD
(1st Century AD)

1200AD
(13th Century AD)

1780
(18th Century AD)

1847
(19th Century AD)

1914-18
(20th Century AD)

1931
(20th Century AD)

1934
(20th Century AD)

1940
(20th Century AD)

1956
(20th Century AD)

2013
(21st Century AD)

2017
(21st Century AD)



Colour us in



