Animals in our local community

by Kate Cuddihy

This lesson helps pupils to understand the roles that animals play in the local community and how these have changed over time.

Country

- England

Key stage

- Key stage 2

Subject/Area of learning

- Citizenship
- Geography
- History

Focus

- Local democracy

Aims and objectives

Curriculum objectives

Pupils should learn:
- about their local community and how it has changed over time
- why the place is located where it is, and about people who have contributed to its development
- to work together to pose questions and undertake research
- to communicate their findings to others
- to discuss the local area with a range of different people in the school and local community
- what the place is like today and what it might be like in the future.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this lesson:
- most pupils: recognise and describe some of the main characteristics of their local community, and that it has changed over time
- some pupils have not made so much progress and: know some of the main features of their local community
- some pupils have progressed further and: recognise and describe some of the main

characteristics of their local community. They can say how it has changed over time.

<u>Activities</u>

Starter activity

Past, present and future
- Work in groups of four or five, and give each group the collection of L*ocal democracy* images. Ask them to identify each of the working animals in the photos and the role they are playing in the community. The *Useful websites* section can be used for background information.
- Pupils should then create three piles of images - from the past, from the present and images that include both past and present use.
- Discuss how the role of animals has changed over time. In some countries animals have been replaced by technology, e.g. cars and tractors rather than horses and ploughs, but new roles have been found, e.g. sniffer dogs and Pets As Therapy (PAT) dogs. Has our relationship with animals changed over time and what roles do pupils think animals will have in the future?
- Read the article 'Joining forces' from the **RSPCA's *Animal Action* magazine** about dogs working with the armed forces.

Learning styles: visual, auditory.

Main activity

Animals in our community
- Work in small groups and give each group a copy of a local map stuck in the middle of a large sheet of paper. Ask pupils to mark roughly on the map where animals can be found in their local community. This could include pet shops, riding stables, local parks and green areas, pets in people's homes and farms. Pupils should draw lines from the areas where animals are found to the outer paper and then write on the type of animals found there.
- Alternatively, you could use the worksheet **Animals in my world** to help pupils think about the different ways they come into contact with animals at home, at school and in their local community. Ask them to think about wild animals, pets and farm animals and fill in the circles with names or drawings of animals as appropriate.
- Groups can then feed back ideas about where animals are found and the types of animals these might be. They might like to discuss the difference between animals as pets, wildlife and working animals.
- Hand out copies of local newspapers or press cuttings. (Alternatively, listen to a radio news report). Ask pupils to read the papers and find stories that relate to animals including classified ads. These can be recorded on the worksheet **Animal audit**. For differentiation, you could mark the relevant articles or adverts in the newspaper beforehand.

Learning styles: visual, auditory.

Plenary activity

Talking point
Each group should now feed back information about at least one story and one advert from their

newspaper and give details about it. Highlight any animal welfare issues, such as ignorance, neglect, cruelty or obsessive behaviour (such as hoarding animals) and discuss with the class.
Learning styles: auditory.

Assessment

Use the pupils' record and audit sheets for your own assessment notes. Make notes or tape the class plenary discussion to see how much individual pupils contribute to the progress of the discussion.

Extension Ideas

Extension activities

- Pupils could research some of the uses of animals (see *Useful websites* section) and present this to the class or use for a display.
- You could encourage pupils to develop their own animal audit sheet or create a newspaper giving details of local animal stories that they have found.

Display

- Make a 'then and now' display of working animals in the community and compare and contrast how the role of animals has changed.
- Alternatively, produce a large map of the local area and ask pupils to cut out their drawings of animals and stick them in the appropriate places on the map.

ICT ideas

Pupils could research the uses of animals online, starting with the *Useful websites* section. They could also design their own animal audit worksheet using a computer-based package or spreadsheet.

Useful Info

What you need

Images (see L*ocal democracy* images)
- Photos of animals in the community

Equipment
- Local business directory
- Simplified local map (see **Ordnance Survey** in *Useful websites* section)
- Large sheets of paper
- Local newspaper and press cuttings

Worksheets (see *Photocopiables* section)
- **Animal audit**
- **Animals in my world**

Factsheet(see *Photocopiables* section)
- *Animal Action* magazine: **Joining forces**

Did you know?

- It takes at least 14 weeks to train a **police dog**. There are approximately 2,500 police dogs in England and Wales.
- **Guide dogs** work for an average of seven years before they retire.
- **Dogs for the Disabled** was founded in 1986 and became a registered charity in 1988.
- Seizure Alert Dogs® train for a minimum of 170 hours (see **Support Dogs** in *Useful websites* section). They are carefully chosen, often from rescue centres.
- Since launching at Crufts dog show in 1982, **Hearing Dogs for Deaf People** has placed 1,000 dogs in the UK.
- The **PDSA Dickin Medal** was awarded to 54 animals between 1943 and 1949 for their bravery and devotion to duty while serving with the armed forces.

Vocabulary

audit
community
domesticated
local
record

Useful Websites

RSPCA - Science group
British Transport Police - the dog section
Battersea Dogs and Cats Home
Canine Partners
Dogs for the Disabled
Guide Dogs
Hearing Dogs for Deaf People
Ordnance Survey
PDSA - Awards for gallantry
Pets as Therapy (PAT)
Support Dogs

Downloads

Animal Action magazine - Joining forces
Animal audit
Animals in my world