

ANIMAL HEROES SCAVENGER HUNT

AGES

Children 6+ years

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

Animal heroes everywhere you turn! Every week or two, hide a new animal hero somewhere in the library. When children find that animal, they take one of its trading cards (see Printables for template). They must come to the library throughout the summer to collect the whole set. You can also have them vote for their favorite animal hero, which you can display at the end of the summer. This is a great program to adapt to whichever animal heroes you have in your collection.

Animal Hero Ideas

- Mzee, the 130-year old tortoise who adopted an orphan hippo
- Scarlett, the homeless cat who saved her kittens from a burning building
- Dewey, the library cat who came through the book drop as a kitten
- Paddy, the retired police horse in Australia
- Joey, the WWI war horse
- Jake, the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina search and rescue dog
- Stubby, the pit bull mix who warned of gas attacks
- Gustav, the first pigeon to relay information in WWII
- Cher Ami, the WWI homing pigeon
- Togo, the Alaskan sled dog

MATERIALS AND PREPARATION

Next to the book display, leave slips of paper with the picture and name of the current week's animal. Add a clue to direct children to its location.

For each scavenger hunt location, make a poster with a large picture of the animal hero as well as a few facts for older children to read. Make sure the text is big enough to be read from a distance. Fill a pocket with copies of the week's animal trading card, and remember to list library materials related to that animal hero.

You can make the trading cards yourself or order them online. To make your own, download the PowerPoint slides (Animal Hero Trading Card Templates) from the online manual. Fill in the blanks and/or modify the cards to suit your vision, then print them nine to a page to make 2.5 x 3.5" trading cards. Optionally, laminate each sheet before you cut them.

ADAPTATIONS:

You could also apply the trading card idea to animal scientists (Chapter 03: Who Helped Me?) or ugly animals (Chapter 06: Axolotl and Other Weirdos). See Printables for a simple animal scavenger hunt.

TIP:

Add fun facts or an animal texture to the back of your trading cards.

RESOURCES

Web

Online trading cards: <https://bit.ly/3bPGZcJ>

Time Magazine's Top 10 Heroic Animals: <https://bit.ly/3dV7vTe>

On Paddy, the Australian police horse: <https://bit.ly/369Bynw>

On Jake, the Hurricane Katrina rescue dog: <https://nbcnews.to/3clHCpJ>

Animal Heroes Nonfiction

Picture Books

Dewey: There's a Cat in the Library (2009) by Vicki Myron et al.

My Little Golden Book About Balto (2019) by Charles Lovitt and Sophie Allsopp

Poop Detectives: Working Dogs in the Field (2016) by Ginger Wadsworth

Swift (2007) by Robert J. Blake

Togo (2002) by Robert J. Blake

Middle Grade

Avalanche Dog Heroes: Piper and Friends Learn to Search the Snow (2018) by Elizabeth Rusch

Cher Ami: WWI Homing Pigeon (2011) by Joeming Dunn and Ben Dunn

Finding Gobi: A Little Dog with a Very Big Heart (Young Readers Edition) (2017) by Dion Leonard

Navy Seal Dogs: My Tale of Training Canines for Combat (2013) by Mike Ritland

No Better Friend: A Man, a Dog, and Their Incredible True Story of Friendship and Survival in WWII (Young Readers' Edition) (2018) by Robert Weintraub

Owen and Mzee (2016) by Isabella Hatkoff et al.

Pet Heroes (2011) by Nicole Corse

Search and Rescue Dogs on the Job (2017) by Mirella S. Miller

Stubby the War Dog: The True Story of World War I's Bravest Dog (2018) by Ann Bausum

Wildlives: 50 Extraordinary Animals That Made History (2020) by Ben Lerwill and Sarah Walsh

TIP:

For YA and adult books about animal heroes, see Chapter 03: Career Dogs.

Animal Heroes Fiction

Picture Books

Hero Cat (2006) by Eileen Spinelli and Jo Ellen McAllister Stammen (picture book)

Early Reader

Sidekicks (2011) by Dan Santat

Time Dogs: Balto and the Race Against Time (2020) by Helen Moss and Misa Saburi

Middle Grade

Bunnica: A Rabbit Tale of Mystery (Bunnica and Friends #1) (2011) by Deborah Howe et al.

Dogs of War (2013) by Sheila Keenan and Nathan Fox

Ellie's Story by Bruce W. Cameron

Letters from Wolfie (2004) by Patti Sherlock

Max: Best Friend, Hero, Marine (2015) by Jennifer Li Shotz

Mountain Dog (2013) by Margarita Engle, Aleksey Ivanov, and Olga Ivanov

Rescue on the Oregon Trail (2015) by Kate Messner (or any book in the Ranger in Time series)

War Horse (2010) by Michael Morpurgo

Woof (Boswer and Birdie #1) (2016) by Spencer Quinn

RESIZABLE DOWNLOAD

(SEE ONLINE MANUAL OR USB)

Animal Heroes Trading Card PowerPoint

PRINTABLE

LIBRARY SCAVENGER HUNT		
#	TASK TO COMPLETE	ANSWER
1	Find a book with "dinosaur" in the title.	
2	Find a book about your favorite animal.	
3	Take a picture in front of the computer you use to find books.	
4	Find a book about any creature that lives in the ocean.	
5	Which astronaut has a NASA portrait with two rescue dogs?	
6	Find a novel with "dog" or "cat" in the title.	
7	Find a comic about a dog or a cat (hint: 741).	
8	Find a book with a bird on the cover.	
9	Ask any library staff member to name their favorite animal. Staff initials _____	

