

Lesson Plan

Breed Groups

Book: *Beagles*

Series: That's My Dog

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice researching and presenting relevant information about a topic.

Supplies

- *Beagles* book
- The American Kennel Club's breed group web pages:
 - Toy Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/toy/>
 - Hound Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/hound/>
 - Sporting Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/sporting/>
 - Working Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/working/>
 - Terrier Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/terrier/>
 - Non-sporting Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/non-sporting/>
 - Herding Group: <http://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/groups/herding/>

Before the Activity

Read through the *Beagles* book, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Chapter 2 ("British Roots") describes how people began breeding beagles. Page 10 describes how hunters bred dogs that ran fast with dogs that had a good sense of smell to produce dogs that would be good hunters. Many hunting dogs are part of the hound group. This group of dogs includes scent hounds (dogs that use their noses to track things) and sight hounds (dogs that use eyesight to track things). In fact, there are 27 breeds of hounds, including basset hounds, foxhounds, and bloodhounds. These dogs have special traits that make them good at hunting. Ask students to list the traits that make beagles good at hunting. Answers should include the following:

- Beagles are fast runners (p. 10).
- Beagles have a good sense of smell (p. 10).
- A beagle's sturdy legs help it run for long periods of time (p. 18).
- A beagle's long ears touch the ground and stir up scents for it to smell (p. 19).

There are other breed groups besides hounds. Each group of dogs includes a variety of breeds, but most dogs in a group will have a few similar features. Divide the class into seven groups. Each group should research one of the following breed groups:

- Toy Group
- Hound Group
- Sporting Group
- Working Group
- Non-sporting Group
- Herding Group

Each group of students should prepare a five-minute presentation explaining their assigned breed group to the rest of the class. The presentation should answer the following questions:

- What were the dogs in this breed group created to do?
- What personality traits or physical features do dogs in this group have in common?
- What are a few of the dogs in this group?
- What should potential owners know about dogs in this group?

Students should create a slideshow to go along with their presentation. It should include information answering each question, as well as pictures of some of the dogs in the group.

Evaluation

Give students in each group up to 30 points, using the following rubric:

- 5 points for each of the four questions they answer in their presentation
- 5 points for including relevant text in their slideshow
- 5 points for including images of the dogs in their breed group

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' speaking and listening standards, grade 4 (SL 4.4; SL 4.5).