

Lesson Plan

Dog Jobs

Book: *German Shepherds*

Series: That's My Dog

Level: Beacon

Objective

To help students practice recalling details from a text, understanding how these details are used by the author to create relationships of cause and effect.

Supplies

- *German Shepherds* book
- Whiteboard
- Paper and pencils

Before the Activity

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

Activity

German shepherds are one of the smartest dog breeds. They can be trained to do many different kinds of jobs and activities. Ask students to list jobs that dogs can have. The list should include the following:

- guide dogs
- herding dogs
- hunting dogs
- military dogs
- police dogs
- search-and-rescue dogs

Write the students' answers on the whiteboard. Then write the following questions:

1. What job were German shepherds first bred to have?
2. What traits do German shepherds have that make them good at this job?
3. What job is described on page 14? What must German shepherds do as part of this job?
4. What traits do German shepherds have that make them good at this job?
5. What other jobs can German shepherds have?
6. What other traits do German shepherds have?
7. How might these traits help them with their other jobs?

On a separate sheet of paper, students should write answers to each of the questions on the whiteboard. Remind students to refer to specific details from the book's text in their answers. Collect the papers at the end of the activity.

Evaluation

Using the attached answer key, give each student 2 points for each correct answer, for a total of 14 points.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 3 (RI 3.3; RI 3.8).

Answer Key

1. What job were German shepherds first bred to have?

German shepherds were bred to herd and guard livestock (p. 11).

2. What traits do German shepherds have that make them good at this job?

To be good at this job, German shepherds needed to be able to run for long periods of time (p. 11), to have protective instincts (p. 13), and to have herding instincts (p. 5).

3. What job is described on page 14? What must German shepherds do as part of this job?

This page describes military dogs. These dogs find enemies, sniff out bombs, and carry messages between soldiers (p. 14).

4. What traits do German shepherds have that make them good at this job?

A German shepherd's strong sense of smell helps it sniff out people and bombs (p. 14).

5. What other jobs can German shepherds have?

German shepherds can be police dogs (p. 7), service dogs (p. 7), and watchdogs (p. 13).

6. What other traits do German shepherds have?

German shepherds are intelligent (p. 17) and loyal (p. 13). They also have protective instincts (p. 13).

7. How might these traits help them with their other jobs?

Answers will vary. Possible answers:

- Because they are intelligent, German shepherds can be trained to do tasks that have many steps (p. 17).
- Their protective instincts can help German shepherds defend their owners and be good watchdogs.
- Their loyalty can help German shepherds be good service dogs and assist their owners with everyday tasks.