

## Lesson Plan

### Pug Problems

**Book:** *Pugs*

**Series:** That's My Dog

**Level:** Beacon

### Objective

To help students explore the relationship between confirmation, appearance, and function in dog breeds and to integrate concepts and information from multiple sources.

### Supplies

- *Pugs* book
- Whiteboard
- “Confirmation Related Health Problems” article from the Kennel Club: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/health/for-breeders/conformation-related-health-problems/>
- “Pug Health Problems” article from the Kennel Club: <https://www.thekennelclub.org.uk/services/public/breed/watch/display.aspx?breed=6164>
- Pug Problems worksheet (attached)

### Before the Activity

Read through the *Pugs* book, or assign it to students to read on their own. Print one Pug Problems worksheet for each student.

### Activity

Choose a student to read Chapter 3 (“The Perfect Pug”) out loud to the rest of the class. Then ask the students to make a list of features that a pug has. Write their answers on the whiteboard. Their list should include the following features:

- flat faces
- wrinkled skin
- round heads
- square-shaped bodies
- curling tail
- large eyes
- short fur

Next, choose a student to read Chapter 4 (“Pug Pampering”). Ask students to make a list of the ways a pug’s features can cause problems. Write their answers on the whiteboard next to the related feature. Their list should include the following items:

- flat faces can cause breathing problems
- wrinkled skin requires frequent cleaning

Explain that a dog's appearance often affects its health. Different features can create different health risks. Read the "Confirmation Related Health Problems" article out loud to the students. Ask students to listen for some of the physical traits that can cause health problems for dogs.

Then ask the following questions:

- According to this article, what four things should a dog be able to do? (Answers: hear, walk, see, and breathe)
- According to this article, what features can cause health problems? (Answers: skin, head shape, eyes, tail, and ears)

To take a closer look at how a dog's appearance can affect its health, have each student fill out a Pug Problems worksheet. They can refer to the "Confirmation Related Health Problems" article as well as the "Pug Health Problems" article, which describes particular problems pugs face.

### **Evaluation**

Using the attached answer key, give each student two points for listing the problems each of the five features can create and one point for answering each question about pug-specific problems, for a total of 16 points.

### **Standards**

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading informational texts standards, grade 4 (RI 4.1; RI 4.9).

## Pug Problems

**A. Write one or two sentences explaining what kinds of problems can each of the following features create for pugs.**

1. Skin: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Head shape: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Eyes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Tails: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Ears: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**B. Write one or two sentences answering the following questions about how a pug's appearance can affect its health.**

1. How many of the five potentially problematic features from the "Confirmation Related Health Problems" article do pugs have?

2. According to the "Pug Health Problems" article, what are the ten problems pugs may face?

3. How many of these ten problems are related to skin?

4. How many of these ten problems are related to head shape?

5. How many of these ten problems are related to eyes?

6. How many of these ten problems are related to tails?

## Pug Problems ANSWER KEY

**A. Write one or two sentences explaining what kinds of problems can each of the following features create for pugs.**

- 1. Skin:** Dogs with many wrinkles or folds can develop irritation or infection.
- 2. Head shape:** Dogs with flat faces can have difficulty breathing, overheat in hot weather, or have trouble cooling down after exercising. This problem is often worse in dogs with thin nostrils.
- 3. Eyes:** Dogs with eyes that stick out may not be able to blink well, which can cause their eyes to dry out or become irritated. Plus, dogs with wrinkles or folds on their faces can have eyelids that turn in or out and cause problems.
- 4. Tails:** Dogs with tails that are curly are at risk for skin infections and spine problems. These things can make it hard for the dogs to move without pain.
- 5. Ears:** Dogs with long ears or very hairy ears can develop irritation or infection.

**B. Write one or two sentences answering the following questions about how a pug's appearance can affect its health.**

1. How many of the five potentially problematic features from the "Confirmation Related Health Problems" article do pugs have?

Pugs have four out of five of these problems. They do not have long ears, but they have all the other features.

2. According to the "Pug Health Problems" article, what are the ten problems pugs may face?

Pugs may have breathing problems, nasal folds, eyes that stick out, skin irritation from skin folds, scarring or hair loss because of skin irritation, trouble blinking, pinched nostrils, and sore eyes from malformed eyelids. They may also be overweight or have trouble moving.

3. How many of these ten problems are related to skin?

Four problems are related to skin. They are nasal folds, hair loss or scarring from dermatitis, dermatitis in skin folds, and poor eyelid formation (which is often related to wrinkles).

4. How many of these ten problems are related to head shape?

Two problems are related to head shape. They are difficulty breathing and pinched nostrils.

5. How many of these ten problems are related to eyes?

Three problems are related to eyes. They are prominent eyes, trouble blinking, and malformed eyelids.

6. How many of these ten problems are related to tails?

One problem, unsound movement, can be caused by spine problems that result from a curly tail.