

Choosing the Perfect Dog

WebQuest Description: Almost everyone likes to learn about pets. In this project students will improve their technology and writing skills by finding information about three different breeds of dogs.

Grade Level: 6-8

Curriculum: Technology

Keywords: dogs, dog breeds, dog clubs, pets, working dogs, herding dogs, hunting dogs, sporting dogs, hounds, toy dogs, spaniels, retrievers,

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Introduction

You have wanted a dog since you were a little kid, but your parents have always said, 'No!' Well, now they have changed their minds. However, your parents want you to learn about the characteristics of some of the breeds you like. They want you to choose three very different breeds so that they can make the final choice from the three breeds you have chosen. They want you to choose a big dog, a middle sized dog, and a small dog and to learn as much as you can about each breed, including the history of the breed and what the dogs were expected to do.

Tasks

You will use the Internet and reference books to learn as much as you can about three dog breeds. You will create a PowerPoint Presentation that describes each breed, shows pictures of each breed and compares the breeds with one another. So what do you have to look for? First of all, the size is important. You will choose a small dog, a medium sized dog and a big dog.

What do you want to be able to do with your dog? You may have a special idea about what you want to be able to do with your dog. Some dogs are better suited for certain tasks than others are.

Here is a list of activities that dogs have been trained to do:

hunt

birds; herd sheep or cattle

be a companion; learn

tricks; hunt

rodents; sniff for drugs; pull

cart; compete in

obedience/agility; guard; pull a dog

sled; therapy

dog; search &

rescue; guide the

blind; identify diseases by smell; catch criminals; compete in dog

shows; As you do your research you will discover which breeds have most often been used for these tasks. Even if you won't want your dog to herd sheep you might learn that a dog that was originally developed to herd sheep will have just the attitude that you want for the tasks you have in mind.

Here are some of the other traits to take into account as you do your search for information. What kind of hair does this breed have? How much care will the coat need? Will it need to be groomed by a professional groomer? Is it good with children? Is it friendly with other dogs? Is it easy to train? Does it need lots of exercise or is it a "couch potato"?

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Process

PROCESS AND RESOURCES

- You will be given a Breed Information Form to record your findings. Fill in the spaces with the basic information asked for about each breed. You may want to take your own notes as well; to include information that you find interesting but doesn't fit on the form. A two column note form is available for taking your own notes.
- You will be given a Website Information Form to write down information about each of the websites that you use that are not on this list.
- Begin by looking at these Kennel Club Internet sites where you will find information about most breeds:
 - <http://www.akc.org>
 - <http://ukcdogs.com/>
 - <http://www.ckc.ca/en/>
- Next find the organizations that represent each breed. The three kennel clubs listed above have links to the breed clubs. The breed clubs will provide more information about each breed and its characteristics. You will choose one dog that weighs up to 20 pounds or is less than 15 inches tall at the shoulder, one that weighs between 25 and 50 pounds or is from 15 to 22 inches tall at the shoulder, and one that weighs more than 60 pounds or is over 25 inches tall at the shoulder. The following websites may be used to learn about different things that dogs do to help people.
 - <http://magma.nationalgeographic.com/ngexplorer/0301/articles/mainarticle.html>
 - <http://animals.howstuffworks.com/pets/dog.htm>
- Before you begin your PowerPoint you will need to have your Breed Information form checked.
- Finally, you will create a PowerPoint Presentation that will include:
 - at least one picture of each of your chosen breeds.
 - a description of the breed that includes all of the characteristics from the Breed Information Form.
 - a description of three qualities that you liked most about the breeds you chose.
 - three or more facts that you learned about dogs that you hadn't known before you.
 - a comparison of at least five characteristics of each breed.

Evaluation

Your PowerPoint Presentation will be evaluated for writing quality, depth of information, and attractiveness. Keep in mind that the use of too many "bells and whistles" will diminish the overall appeal of your presentation.

Category and Score	0-1	2	3	4	Score
Appearance	Uses only one or two layouts with very poor use of design templates.	Uses three or four layouts with unsuitable design templates.	Use of layouts and design templates complement presentation.	Use of layouts and design templates make presentation very appealing.	
Animation & Transitions	No use of animation and/or transitions. OR Transitions and/or animation schemes are confusing.	There is some continuity from one slide to the next but transitions and animation detract from the presentation.	There is continuity from one slide to the next with use of animation that adds to the presentation.	The transitions between slides flow seamlessly from one slide to the next with use of animation that enhances the presentation.	
Content	Fewer than five slides with less than 70 percent of the basic required information.	Five to eight slides with 71 to 80 percent of the basic required information.	Nine to thirteen slides with 81 to 90 percent of the required information.	More than thirteen slides with at least 91 percent of the required information.	
Conventions	Grammatical and/or spelling errors in nearly every sentence/line make text nearly impossible to understand.	Grammatical and/or spelling errors in half of the sentences/lines make some of the text difficult to read.	Text is easy to read with grammatical and/or spelling errors in less than 15% of the sentences/lines.	Text is easy to read with no grammatical or spelling errors.	
				Total Score	

Conclusion

Once you have finished this webquest you will have navigated websites, found specific information from a variety of sources, and created a PowerPoint Presentation. Do you think that using the Internet and PowerPoint will be easier for you now that you have completed this project?

Did you discover that there are dogs that you had never heard of? Have you changed your attitudes about dogs in general or some particular breeds? Did you find a breed that you really liked that you had not known about before completing this project?

Teacher Page

TEACHER INFORMATION

Primary Grade Level: 6

Developed as an introduction to using the Internet and PowerPoint for students who have had little or no experience with computers.

WASHINGTON STATE ESSENTIAL ACCADEMIC LEARNING REQUIREMENTS
TECHNOLOGY

EALR 1. INTEGRATION: Student use technology within all content areas

to collaborate, communicate, generate innovative ideas, investigate and solve problems, and think critically. Research, manage and evaluate information and solve problems using digital tools and resources.

GLE 1.3.2 Locate and organize information from a variety of sources and media.

Use basic functions of search engines and databases.

Catalog and organize resources.

GLE 1.3.3 Analyze, synthesize and ethically use information to develop a solution, make decisions and report results.

Select relevant sources for a particular purpose or audience.

EALR 2. DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP: Students demonstrate a clear understanding of technology systems and operations and practice safe, legal and ethical behavior.

COMPONENT 2.2 Operate Systems. Understand technology systems and use hardware and networks to support learning.

GLE 2.2.1 Develop skills to use technology effectively.

Learn new vocabulary as technologies emerge.

Meet keyboarding proficiency standards.

Apply correct network procedures.

Manage files effectively.

COMPONENT 2.3 Select and Use Applications: Use productivity tools and common applications effectively and constructively.

GLE 2.3.1 Select and use common applications.
Use software to reinforce skills in all subject areas.
Create and publish multimedia projects.
Use multiple features of a presentation program.
GLE 2.3.2 Select and use online applications.
Use navigation skills to search for and find information

Standards

Credits

Other