



History of Guide Dogs

A History (comparison) resource
for 11 to 14-year-olds

For further information about Guide Dogs or for more learning resources visit [guidedogs.org.uk/learning](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/learning)



Registered charity in England and Wales (209617)
and Scotland (SC038979). GD0466 07/21

1931
2021
Guide Dogs
90 Years

Welcome to the History of Guide Dogs KS3 resource

This pack contains a series of activities about the history of guide dogs in the UK and the impact of World War 1, which led to the forming of guide dog charities across the world. The resources are suitable for 11 to 14-year-olds. The content has been written to meet the requirements of the History curriculums for England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland. It also supports group work and discussion, creativity and writing skills development, thinking, communication and ICT.

About Guide Dogs

Since 1931, Guide Dogs has been there for people with sight loss and those around them – every day and every step of the way. Today, we lead the world in breeding and training working dogs, creating unique and carefully matched partnerships that provide life changing support. But there's so much more to us than that.

As we've grown, so have our services, provided by brilliant and dedicated people working alongside our fantastic dogs. We create partnerships with sighted guides, and connections with trusted advisors, who can offer support to people with a vision impairment, their family, and their friends. We're dedicated to helping children and young people with sight loss learn, grow and access the same opportunities as everyone else. And when needed we can partner people with buddy or companion dogs and bring people together to support each other and share their experiences.

From training puppies to offering advice on the latest accessible technology, from raising vital funds to driving ground-breaking research, our staff, volunteers – and donors – have given thousands the help they need to live the life they choose. To find out more about all of our services, visit

[guidedogs.org.uk](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk)

**1931
2021**

**Guide Dogs
90 Years**

Curriculum links

England

Extend and deepen chronologically secure knowledge and understanding of British, local and world history. Identify significant events, make connections, draw contrasts, and analyse trends within periods and over

long arcs of time• WW1• WW2• challenges for Britain, Europe, the wider world. Social, cultural, and technological change in post-war British society.

Scotland

SOC 3-01a use knowledge of a historical period to interpret the evidence and present an informed view • SOC 3-05a describe the factors contributing to a major social, political or economic change in the past and assess

the impact on people's lives• SOC 3-06a - discuss the motives of those involved in a significant turning point in the past, assess the consequences it had then and since.

Northern Ireland

Developing pupils' Knowledge, Understanding and Skills: Investigate the past and its impact on our world today• developing enquiry• critical thinking skills• creative thinking skills• chronological awareness• challenge stereotypical, biased, or distorted viewpoints• British History.

Objective 2 Developing pupils as Contributors to Society: Investigate the impact of significant events/ideas of the 20th century on the world, for example, war.

Wales

Chronological awareness• Historical knowledge and understanding Interpretations of history• Historical enquiry• Ask and answer significant questions• Organisation and communication• Britain, how some twentieth century individuals and events have shaped our world today• Ask and answer the questions, what historical

knowledge do you have; how did you gain it and what else would you like to know? What were the key changes in this period; what impact did these changes have on Britain and the world? What significance does this period of history have for our world today?

Keywords

History• World War 1• gas• Britain• veteran• then• now• modern• past• changes• historical• old• World War 2• compare• timeline• chronological• recent• cause.

Introduction

Introduce your class to Guide Dogs, with this video [We are Guide Dogs](#)



Activity 1 – Timeline

Ask your group to complete the Guide Dogs timeline activity, by putting the correct dates next to each of the events. They also have the option to cut out each line and stick the events onto another piece of paper, in the correct order.

Answers for teachers - 12,000 BC – Dogs domesticated, 79 Roman mural, 1200 – medieval art, 1780 – “Les Quinze-Vigts” hospital, 1847– Jakob Birrer, 1914–18 World War 1, 1931 Guide Dogs U.K, 1934 The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 1940 – World War 2, 1956 Puppy scheme, 2013 My Sighted Guide, 2017 Children and Young People.

Activity 2 – History of Guide Dogs reading activity

Ask your group to read the passage on the “History of Guide Dogs” and answer the questions. **Optional video the Guide Dogs timeline**

Extension activity 1 - Group Discussion – After reading the passage and answering the questions, encourage your group to discuss the following:

What might life have been like for injured service personnel and factory workers, following the First World War?

Use the following prompts:

- Life before WW1
- What life may have been like in the trenches
- Life in the factories (who would have worked in the factories?)
- How people may have been injured
- What medical care would be available at the front and at home in the 1920’s (no NHS until 1948)
- What support would have been available to those with life changing disabilities

Extension activity 2 - Group discussion

How has Guide Dogs changed from 1931 to now? What has remained the same?

Option – Watch Nell’s video.

Activity 3 – Written/ research activity (possible homework task)

Ask your group to use the passage on the “History of Guide Dogs”, the activity prompts and online sources to:

Option A – Write a newspaper article about Guide Dogs as if you were one of the first newspapers writing about this new service (in 1931).

Option B – Write a personal account, imagining you were one of the first guide dog owners. Write about your life before you lost your eyesight and life now.



Activity 1 – Timeline

Find the correct date in the list below and write it next to the description of the event.

12,000 BC (14,200 years ago)	1780 (18th Century AD)	1847 (19th Century AD)	1934 (20th Century AD)
1914-18 (20th Century AD)	2017 (21st Century AD)	1956 (20th Century AD)	1931 (20th Century AD)
2013 (21st Century AD)	79AD (1st Century AD)	1200AD (13th Century AD)	1940 (20th Century AD)

World War 1 which re-sparks an interest in guide dogs due to so many young men being blinded.	
Guide Dogs puppy raising scheme starts.	
A mural from Roman Herculaneum (Pompeii) shows a blind person being led by a dog.	
Guide Dogs and Blind Children UK merge into one and Guide Dogs Children and Young People services start.	
First attempt to formally train guide dogs at "Les Quinze-Vigts" hospital for the blind in Paris.	
World War 2 causes Guide Dogs to move to Leamington Spa.	
The My Sighted Guide service starts – helping people with sight loss get out and about with a volunteer.	
Dogs first start to be domesticated by humans.	
Medieval art shows an image of a blind person with a stick being led by a dog.	
The first four people train with their guide dogs in the UK.	
Jakob Birrer writes about being guided by a dog he had specially trained.	
The title "The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association" is used for the first time.	

Activity 2 – History of guide dogs in the UK

Read the passage and answer the questions.

Through the ages dogs have served and befriended men in countless ways as working partners, guards, and companions.

During the First World War, many soldiers and factory workers were exposed to mustard gas or shell explosions, which caused them to lose their eyesight.

This led to the first guide dog school starting in Germany after a doctor looking after war-wounded patients, discovered that his dog behaved well with one of the men who was blind. In 1931 Muriel Crooke and Rosamund Bond, read a story about guide dogs and arranged for a trial scheme to run in Britain.

Training of the first four British guide dog owners began in the late summer of 1931 in Wallasey, Cheshire. They finished their training in October 1931.

In 1932, Six months after getting his guide dog, Allen Caldwell, wrote, 'Flash has revolutionised my outdoor life.' 'Not only has my dog given me glorious freedom and independence, never known since pre-war days, but delightful companionship.'

During the Second World War the training had to move to Leamington Spa because Wallasey suffered many bombings and wasn't safe. Arrangements had to be made for guide dogs to be allowed into air raid shelters and there were also special allowances made for cereal dog food.

As Guide Dogs grew, they needed more dogs, so in 1956 specially selected puppies were purchased and placed with 'Raisers' who looked after them. By 1958 nearly 60 puppies were being raised.

Looking back, it is perhaps surprising that organised guide dog training did not start earlier. Dogs have been associated with the blind as protectors and guides, in however primitive a form, for at least 1,000 years. There are many examples in European art of the blind accompanied by dogs. There are pictures recorded from Roman and Medieval times of dogs walking with blind owners who are also using a stick. Even the publication in Vienna in 1819 of a textbook for Teaching the Blind, which describes the training of a dog with a rigid leash to lead the blind.





Today, Guide Dogs UK is the world's largest breeder and trainer of working dogs and creates over 600 new guide dog partnerships a year. The charity also supports children and young people with sight loss through a range of services including the buddy dog service and Customeyes, which provides bespoke large print books. It has other services for adults including My Sighted Guide, which matches a person with sight loss with a volunteer, who helps them get out and about safely.

Task: Answer the following questions

What was the aim of Guide Dogs, who did they initially set out to support?

What do you think motivated those who started the guide dogs service?

How was this different to attempts made by people to use dogs as guides in the past?

What major event accelerated the need for guide dogs?

What caused the charity to change location?

Why do you think special allowances had to be made for cereal dog food? What was happening during this time in history?

What other factors in modern society may have helped with the growth of the modern guide dog movement. (think about major 20th century changes).

How has the decision to start Guide Dogs, had an impact on more people's lives today?

Activity 3A – Newspaper article

Write a newspaper article on the first four guide dogs. Remember this was a very new idea and the public would have been surprised to see the dogs guiding their owners. Use the “History of Guide Dogs” (activity 2) paragraph and research online for stories about guide dog owners, or about those injured whilst serving in the armed forces.

Use the following prompts to compose your article.

Who

Who is the article about, who has come up with the idea, who is being helped? Include quotes from the public and guide dog owners?

What

What happened, what caused the need for guide dogs, what was life like before they had their dog?

When

When did it happen, can you give a timeline of events?



Why

Why did it happen, why do people need the dogs?

How

How can people find out more, how has life changed for the people affected, how has having a guide dog changed their life?

Where

Where were the people when they lost their sight, where did this all start, where else is it happening?



Activity 3B – Personal account

Write a personal account as if you were one of the first guide dog owners.

Use the “History of guide dogs in the UK” (activity 2) paragraph and research online for stories about guide dog owners, or about those injured whilst serving in the armed forces.

Imagine what it would have been like to be one of the survivors of the First World War. Maybe there was a battle, or maybe you worked in one of the munitions/ bomb making factories, imagine there was an explosion, and this caused you to lose your eyesight. What would life have been like for you before, during and after. Imagine how it would feel to go out for the first time with your guide dog?

Try and empathise with your character, think about the following points, and write a first-hand account.

What was your life like before the war?

How do you feel about the war?

What other losses have you experienced (friends, family)?

How do you feel when people say you’re a hero or lucky to be alive?

What benefits are available to you?

What happened to you in the moments after the explosion?

How have your family and friends treated you?

How have you found getting around and completing daily tasks?

What does your guide dog do, how are they helping you?

How do you feel since getting your dog?

What next?

What are your aspirations?



