

Activity 17



ANIMAL WORKERS



STUDY QUESTION:

Do you know any dogs that are workers?

THE ACTIVITY:

In this activity the children identify and explore the regular tasks of a sheep dog.

SUBJECT AREA:

Science

CURRICULUM CONCEPTS:

LANGUAGE ARTS

Read a variety of materials: lists.

SCIENCE

Plants and Animals: describe and classify animals in various ways.

Animal workers.

AGRICULTURE CONCEPTS:

PURPOSE

To introduce children to the concept of animals doing work on the farm.

To give children the opportunity to further develop their language skills while they are learning about sheep dogs.

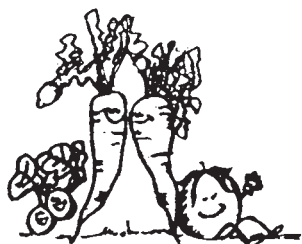
MATERIALS REQUIRED:

Information sheet on the work of a sheep dog. Supplied in this activity.

Photographs of sheep dogs in action. Supplied in this activity.

TIME REQUIRED:

2 class periods.



PROCEDURE

Part One

Introduction

To introduce the ideas of a dog as a worker ask the children who have pets to tell what jobs their pets do. Some dogs, for example, are seen as watchdogs, not just pets; some are used as police dogs or seeing-eye dogs; some also are viewed as companions. Relate this discussion to the historical use of animals such as horses and oxen for transportation, and construction work (hauling loads, etc.) as well as farming.

Discussion

Part Two

Reading

Read the sheet about the sheep dog's duties, discussing each item briefly. Use the pictures to help the children visualize the dog in action.

Part Three

Making a Collage

Have the children work in groups to illustrate the various jobs of the sheep dog. Use the illustrations for a collage and agree on a title for it.

Part Four

Conclusion

Have each group briefly comment on their part of the collage. Highlight the importance of animals to a farmer - the help he gets in return for taking very good care of these animals.

FOR DISCUSSION

How does the farmer control the dog?

What breed is usually used as a sheep dog?

What duties does your animal have around the house?

Are there other animals on the farm that do work for the farmer?

Why are these animals so important on certain farms?



**EVALUATION
STRATEGIES**

1. Write individual stories that involve other animals who work for their masters or write an outline for a day in the life of another animal.

RELATED ACTIVITIES

2. Read stories about farm pets or animal workers - e.g. Only One Wolf, by James Herriot. London: Pan books Ltd., 1986.



Bliss is a working mother.

TEACHER RESOURCE

A Day in the Life of a Sheep Dog



Sheep dogs run up to thirty miles in the course of a day. They are loyal and tireless workers, seldom becoming bored with their jobs. Here are some of the tasks of a sheep dog.

1. Herd sheep from pen to pen.
2. Takes sheep from pens out to pasture.
3. Follows the farmer during feeding and helps control sheep at the feeders, to prevent chaff from getting into the fleece of the sheep.
4. Guards gates when they are open for moving machinery, to prevent sheep from escaping.
5. Brings sheep up the chutes for medical treatment or sorting.
6. Rounds up sheep who have run away from home to graze on a neighbour's grass.
7. Brings sheep in from pastures unassisted.
8. Is a loving companion to a farmer.



WORKING DOG TRIALS



Creed moves in. Can he get the sheep into the pen?



Jeff did a good job - now he can leave the corral with his master.



Both horses and dogs help ranchers with their cattle.

