Animals in the War
Aim

- I can find out about the role of animals in the First World War.

Success Criteria

- I can talk about how different animals helped the Allied forces in the First World War.
- I can recall some key facts about Sergeant Stubby.
- I can research an animal that has helped in the war.
- I can write a newspaper report about the bravery of an animal or animals during war time.
Animals in the First World War

Can you remember which animal carried a message for the soldiers?

Which other animals do you think were used to help the Allied forces during the First World War?
Day 1

Read about the animals on the next few pages and take notes about them. Try and use your own words.
Animals at Work
War Horses

Before the First World War began in 1914, wars had been fought mostly by soldiers on horses. However, both sides soon realised that men on horses could not win the war in the trenches. The muddy ground, barbed wire and machine guns made it very difficult for horses, so they were used to carry things instead.

Cars and tanks often went wrong but horses and mules could be relied on to get food and equipment to the front line.

Ambulance horses carried wounded soldiers and artillery horses carried weapons, ammunition and other heavy loads.
Animals at Work
Hard-Working Elephants

Even elephants were taken from circuses and zoos and put to work. Photographs were taken of them pulling heavy guns. These were used to show people in Britain that even exotic animals were helping in the war effort.
Pigeons on the Front Line

100,000 carrier pigeons were used as messengers during the war. Whenever the soldiers needed to get a message back to their base, they tied it to one of the pigeons. It would fly home and deliver the message.

Pigeons used in the war delivered 95% of their messages correctly. Pigeons were kept at military bases and headquarters. Sometimes they were also kept in unusual places, like old London buses (see the photo on the left) which were brought over from England.
Pigeons on the Front Line

One pigeon, called **Cher Ami**, meaning ‘Dear Friend’ in French, became famous.

She was used by the American Army and Cher Ami managed to get 12 very important messages delivered through one of the battles in 1918.

She also **saved the lives of nearly 200 soldiers** during another battle.

Cher Ami received a medal from the American government for her bravery.
Dogs on the Front Line

Why do you think this dog has a red cross on his side?
Clue: Where have you seen a red cross before?

Look closely at the photo.
What is the soldier doing?
What do you think the dog will do next?
Some dogs were trained as ‘casualty dogs’. They could find soldiers that had been hurt and carried medical equipment for the soldier to use. They wore a jacket with a red cross on it.

Some dogs helped to get messages across the front line. They were much faster than humans and could run through difficult conditions. The soldier in the photo is writing his message whilst the dog waits.
**Day 2**

Read the next few pages. Create a profile for Sergeant Stubby.

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**Sergeant Stubby Fact File**

### Skills

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### Moments of Bravery

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Sergeant Stubby

America joined the war in 1917. Sergeant Stubby became a famous dog who helped the American soldiers during the First World War.

- Stubby saved his soldiers from a gas attack.
- Stubby would bark to let the soldiers know if the enemy was close by.
- Stubby looked for and helped soldiers that were hurt.
- Stubby was injured in a battle.
Sergeant Stubby

Sergeant Stubby was rewarded for his bravery with medals.

Can you talk with your partner about the reasons why he was honoured in this way?

After the war, when Stubby returned home, he was a celebrity. He often led parades throughout the country and even met the President of the United States!
Ext: Create a profile for Cher Ami

Sergeant Stubby Fact File

Cher Ami Fact File

Skills

Moments of Bravery
Day 3

Open up the PDF called Write you own newspaper. Read through and answer the comprehension questions
Day 4 and 5

Write and publish your own newspaper using the information on the write your own newspaper PDF.

If you don’t want to base it on White Vision the pigeon, you can research a different animal.