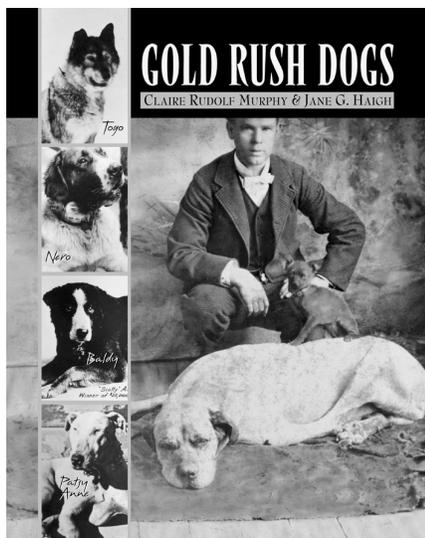


Study Guide



Gold Rush Dogs

by Claire Rudolf Murphy and Jane G. Haigh
Alaska Northwest Books™, 0-88240-534-9, \$14.95 Softcover

This study guide, for students in grades three through eight, offers extended learning activities for the book *Gold Rush Dogs*. Please contact the authors with your comments or questions or for more information and study guides on their other books: *Children of the Gold Rush* and *Gold Rush Women*. Happy reading!

Check out the authors' web sites:
Jane: www.janehaigh.com and Claire: www.clairerudolfmurphy.com

MATH

Check out the Racing board on page 78 of the book. Figure out:

- How fast did each dog team go per mile?
- Did some teams speed up as the race went on?
- Did some teams slow down?
- Did any teams maintain a fairly steady pace?

Log onto the Iditarod racing site.

- How fast do the teams go now?
- How does that speed compare to the Nome races of almost one hundred years ago?

Map Activity

Dubby Leads the Team

When gold was discovered in Nome, Scotty Allan was in Dawson City, Scotty mushed his team from Dawson to Nome down the Yukon River with his famous dog Dubby in the lead. Trace this route on a map.

- How many miles did they travel? (Check an atlas, and use the key to determine the miles.)
- How long do you think it might have taken?

SOCIAL STUDIES

ALASKA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Alaska's indigenous people, sometimes called Alaska Natives, were the first to use dogs for transportation in the North. Find out about Athabascans, and Inupiat on the web (see sites below), in the encyclopedia or books in the library. Write about or give an oral presentation about how these different groups of people used their dogs.

<http://www.uaf.edu/anlc>

Alaska Native Language Center

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?eu=127682>

Britannica: American Subarctic peoples

<http://www.britannica.com/eb/article?eu=118208&tocid=57869>

Inuit and Yupiit, (Eskimos) and Aleuts, people of the western arctic

LANGUAGE ARTS

DOG STORY

Based on information you're read in the book and from other reading, write a story about Scotty's trip. Use details about the weather, people and events that could have happened along the way. Write a biography of one of your own pets. Include a description of your pet, how it lives and some adventures that it's had with or without you.

DOGS IN YOUR AREA

Are dogs used for work in your area? What kind of work do they do? Is there a famous dog or other animal in your area? Write an article about that animal and include a drawing if you wish.

WHAT HAPPENED TO NERO?

It could never be determined what actually happened to Nero. After reading his profile in the book, write a story about what you think occurred. Almost anything is possible, but use details you've have learned in your reading.

LOVED AND LOST

Write a dog obituary for one of the dogs in the book. Be sure to think about what is most memorable about the dog you picked and feature that in the lead or first paragraph of your article. Give an approximate date for the obituary. Write an obituary about a pet you loved that has died. It might be helpful to read obituaries in the newspaper to learn about what information is included in an obituary.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

HAVE A WEIGHT PULL!

Julian, the big Mastiff who went to the Klondike with the Berry family was famous in a Yukon test of strength called the weight pull. It was said that the 150- pound dog could pull 1,000 pounds from a standing position.

Get a flexible flyer or toboggan or small plastic sled with two good strong ropes attached. Stockpile sacks of sand, or ten- pound bags of flour. Mark out a distance of 100 feet. See how much weight you can pull starting at a standing position for 100 feet. This can be done one-at-a-time or in groups. Clap and cheer each other on like in the old days!

Extra credit questions:

MORE ON DOGS

Learn more about dogs native to North America and the Arctic. Look at the Arctic Circle and arctic and polar regions on a map and talk about Siberians, Spitz, Norwegian Reindeer dogs, etc. Do you think Balto was a Norwegian Reindeer dog? Why or why not?

<http://arcticculture.about.com/culture/arcticculture/library/bl-dogbreeds.htm>

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Both Balto and Togo were preserved and mounted for display after their deaths. How do you feel about preserving dogs for display? See Balto at:

<http://boozers.fortunecity.com/elephant/114/balto.htm>

BALTO MOVIE

Watch Disney's animated Balto movie. How does the movie differ from Balto's true story? Why?

GOLD RUSH DOGS, CHILDREN OF THE GOLD RUSH, and GOLD RUSH WOMEN
by Claire Rudolf Murphy and Jane G. Haigh are available from your favorite bookstore or from
Alaska Northwest Books™ (An imprint of Graphic Arts Center Publishing Company)
1-800-452-3032 • www.gacpc.com