

Name: _____

Tales of Faithful Service

By Lisa Hart

Millions of animals played a role in the First World War. They gave soldiers comfort, lifted morale, and much more. They faced much of the same terror as the troops, but we often forget their faithful service.

When rough ground and mud stopped trucks, mules and horses took



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were often used for their speed and sense of direction.

Homing pigeons are known for being able to find their way home from far away. In the war, they flew between command centers and the soldiers at the front, often through gunfire.

Dogs also filled many roles in wartime. Some carried messages through the trenches and fields. Breeds with a strong sense of smell or hearing made ideal guards and scouts. Mercy dogs brought medical supplies to the wounded, and stayed until help arrived or the soldier died. Much like the cats on board ships, terriers in the trenches worked to keep rats from stealing food.



Battlefield pigeon hero Cher Ami carried messages to and from the trenches.



Glowworms were gathered in jars by the thousands to use in place of candles. Their bluish-green glow gave enough soft light to read maps, messages, and letters from home. Unlike candles, their glow did not bring the risk of alerting the enemy.

Even slugs formed their own brigade. Able to detect the very first trace of mustard gas long before the soldiers, the slugs squeezed their bodies and held their breath. The



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1. Why were mules and horses needed to carry people and pull wagons?



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3. What does the author say both dogs and cats did in the war?

4. Other than alerting the enemy, what is one risk candles could have caused that glowworms likely did not cause?

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In the article, "Tales of Faithful Service," you learned about animals that had important jobs in World War I.

Pick an animal not mentioned in the article and write about a job you think it might be good at. Explain what the job would require and why you think the animal might be good at it. Use your imagination!



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Answers may vary. Most common correct answer will likely
be, "Candles could have caused fires."

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9. g. mascots

i. feelings of loyalty or excitement about a job

10. f. mustard gas

j. a group of soldiers