



www.learnwithdogs.ie - Teacher's Notes

Dog Database

The Dog Database and Fact Sheets can be used by individual pupils or pupils working in pairs, to promote knowledge and understanding of data handling or as text for English language activities. The screen also lends itself to whole class activities using a class computer or interactive whiteboard.

Language: English Strand

Overall objective: Using non-fiction texts to gain information

Strand Unit: Competence and Confidence in using language

Infant Classes: Reading – Developing reading skills and strategies

First to Sixth Classes: Reading for pleasure and information

The Fact Sheets lend themselves to these objectives and give pupils the opportunity to make distinctions between facts and opinions. The majority of information presented is factual (e.g. Jack Russell's were named after John Russell). Occasionally some information is based on fictional accounts (e.g. the story about the origin of Corgis). Some of the statements are speculation (e.g. 'People believe that the Old English Sheepdog is descended from the Scottish Bearded Collie or the Russian Owtchar').

Third to Sixth Class SPHE Strand

Strand Unit: Media Education - To compare the way information is presented

Pupils can compare the way in which information is presented on the Database with the information presented on the Fact Sheets. They could research individual dogs not shown on the database and prepare their own Fact Sheet. What information would they include? How would they present the information?

First to Sixth Class Language: English Strand

Strand Unit: Developing cognitive abilities through language

Reading: Developing interests, attitude and the ability to think

The Fact Sheets use subheadings and bulleted lists. What other conventions could pupils use for presenting a Fact Sheet? Pupils can adapt/ redesign one from the website or research information for a new Fact Sheet.



Third to Sixth Class Language: English Strand

Strand Unit: Developing cognitive abilities through language
Writing: Clarifying thought through writing

Pupils could research individual dogs not shown on the database and prepare their own Fact Sheet. What information would they include? How would they present the information? Notes can be taken from written sources or IT sources (i.e. Internet searches).

Third to Sixth Class Language: English Strand

Strand Unit: Emotional and imaginative development through language
Writing: Developing emotional and imaginative life through writing

Mathematics Strand

The Database and Fact Sheets present categorised information for data handling activities.

Third and Fourth Class: Strand Unit - Representing and Interpreting Data

Key Vocabulary: sort, set, graph, chart, pictogram, table, list, axis, label, title, frequency table, tally, most/ least common or popular

Activity 1

1. Use on screen database to sort dogs into sets based on dog types, e.g. hounds, terriers, working dogs, farm dogs, toys, gun dogs, miscellaneous.
2. Create chart/ tables of information (make use of simple spreadsheet).
3. Create graph from tables to show information – add title and label the axes.

Activity 2

1. Carry out a survey to find out the most popular dog (favourite) or most common dog owned (in class/ in year group/ in school if feasible).
2. Use frequency table to record findings.
3. Create pictograms, tables and graphs to record information.
4. Compare different ways of presenting information.

Activity 3

1. Classify dogs according to two criteria, e.g. hounds that are small/ big, big/ small dogs with long hair/ short hair and so forth.
2. Create Carroll or Venn diagrams to record results.



Fifth and Sixth Classes: Strand Unit - Representing and Interpreting Data

Create a database using on screen data and data from research.

Links to Activity 'Choose a Dog' using online Dog Database. Pupils could extend this by posing questions of their own for classmates.

Language: English Strand

Infants to Sixth Class

Strand Unit: Developing cognitive abilities through oral language

SPHE Strand

Infants to Sixth Class

Strand Unit: Myself – Making Decisions