

Animals in War

Set yourself a challenge . . .

KS2, KS3 or even older: pick an activity and make it work for you. Challenge yourself!

War was a challenging time for animals – can you tell everyone how special they were, can you honour them in your own stories, poems, blogs, pictures, logos, Lego, collages, knits, photographs, posters, models, sculptures . . . ?

The donkey below is called Colin. He is well known in the Northern Region of the Donkey Breed Society and each year he goes to the memorial in the village near where he lives in the High Peak, with his owner, Olwen, and friends, to remember those people and animals that together gave us the freedom of democracy we enjoy today.



You could put Colin at the centre of your crafting or writing or you might wish to create your own war animal, like Michael Morpurgo's *War Horse*.

A list of activities is on the back of this sheet, be as creative as possible, you can even make your activities up! Send stories and so on and pictures of

your creations to northerndonks@gmail.com and we will publish them in our online newsletter *Asspire* and send you a copy! We will also incorporate them in our displays at museums and prestigious equine events later this year and in 2027!

Please make sure that your work is accompanied by an email from a parent/carer giving permission for your work to be published and let us know how old you are (unless you're over 18!). We look forward to hearing from you.

Writing: you can write stories, blogs, diaries, guides, information sheets, poetry, plays, anything!

Here are some titles to get you thinking:

- Colin's Day Out
- When my animal found out about animals in the War (can your own pet time travel perhaps?)
- The Sculpture that came alive!
- A War Animal's Diary
- Pigeons in the First World War and Second World War (an opportunity to do some research)
- The Donkey and the Pigeon.

Art and Design: pencil sketching, paints, crayons, any medium, any surface.

How about . . .

- A sketch/painting of Colin and friends
- A sketch/painting of animals going to war
- Design and paint the cover of a book called 'Lest we Forget the Animals'
- Design a logo for a Purple Poppy Campaign
- A collage
- Painted animal images on stones/pebbles
- Design donkey/horse rugs that could be worn on an Armistice Day parade.

You could try . . .

Crafting: anything goes

- potato print purple poppies
- get creative with tissue paper, creating poppies and garlands for animals to wear
- Knit various war animals
- Crochet purple poppies, like the Richmond Poppies!
- Make a sculpture of war animals out of Lego
- Create an 'animals in war' scene in a shoe box.

Or perhaps

- A montage of flower photographs on the theme of purple – with animal silhouettes completing your artwork
- Design and plant a small memorial garden – or a garden on a plate
- Prepare a lesson that you could teach to other students on the subject of 'animals in war'.

I am sure you will have plenty of brilliant ideas of your own too!

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