

International Dog Day (August 26, 2026)

TEACHING GUIDE

What? International Dog Day, a day created to celebrate all dogs and remind everyone that there are still many available for adoption in shelters. 🐕

Who? Dogs, their families, and the people who care for them: veterinarians, dog trainers, and shelter volunteers.

Where? All over the world, but especially in shelters, dog parks, and the homes of four-legged companions.

When? Every year on August 26. 🍖

Why is it important? Because the dog is man's oldest friend—around 15,000 years of friendship—and this day reminds us that a pet requires care and responsibility, not just cuddles.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about dogs in general, and about some famous dogs in particular! 🐕



OBJECTIVES

- Match five dog breeds to the countries they are named after.
- Locate Mexico, Switzerland, Croatia, Canada, and Japan on a world map.
- Write down a feat accomplished by a dog.
- Complete the fact sheets of four cartoon dogs using Wikipedia.



SUBJECTS

- **English**
 - Information Research
 - Written Expression (Descriptive Text)
 - Spelling of Breed Names
- **Social Studies / Geography**
 - Countries and Regions of the World
 - Map Reading
 - Origin of Place Names
- **Culture and Arts**
 - Comic Book Characters
 - Authors and Dates of Creation
 - Famous Dogs in Popular Culture



COMPETENCIES

- Research and interpret information
- Locate countries and regions on a world map
- Extract accurate data from a reference source
- Observe and describe a visual sequence
- Produce a structured response
- Compare information from different sources



DURATION

- Approximately 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Ask the students if they have a dog at home, or if they know one.
- Ask them if they know where the names of dog breeds come from.
- Write "Chihuahua," "Dalmatian," and "Newfoundland" on the board, then ask them what these three words have in common.
- Gather their hypotheses: How many dog breeds are there in the world?

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 — Dogs... and Geography! Matching of five dog breeds to the five countries they are named after, using a map and an internet search. Five short-answer questions.

Q1 — Canada. (Newfoundland is an island that is part of the province of Newfoundland and Labrador.)

Q2 — Switzerland. (Bern is a Swiss canton; the Alps also cross seven other countries.)

Q3 — Croatia. (Dalmatia is a coastal region of Croatia, on the Adriatic Sea.)

Q4 — Mexico. (The state of Chihuahua is the largest in the country and is located on its northern border with the United States.)

Q5 — Japan. (Akita is a prefecture in the north of the island of Honshu.)

STEP 2 — Stupid Pet Tricks. Watching of a video from the show *Stupid Pet Tricks* (TBS) featuring four training tricks. Choice of one trick, writing of a short descriptive text.

Q6 — Personal answer. For example: Two dogs ride on skateboards and move forward one behind the other. They maintain their balance without ever falling. I didn't think a dog could learn such a difficult trick.

STEP 3 — Some famous dogs. Consultation of four Wikipedia entries and completion of an identity card for each dog: name of the comic, creators, year of appearance, breed.

Dogmatix	
Comic strip:	Asterix
Creator(s):	Goscinny & Uderzo
First appearance:	1963
Breed:	Terrier

Rantanplan	
Comic strip:	Lucky Luke
Creator(s):	Morris & Goscinny
First appearance:	1960
Breed:	Hound dog

Snoopy	
Comic strip:	Peanuts
Creator(s):	Schulz
First appearance:	1950
Breed:	Beagle

Snowy	
Comic strip:	Tintin
Creator(s):	Hergé
First appearance:	1929
Breed:	Wire Fox Terrier



WRAPPING UP

- Conduct a group discussion about what the students have learned.
- Discuss what surprised them (the Chihuahua comes from northern Mexico, not the tropics; the Newfoundland comes from a fishing island)
- Ask: Why do we name a dog after a place?
- Ask: Why do comic book authors so often give their heroes a dog as a companion?



FURTHER EXPLORATION

 Becky Baines. *Everything Dogs: All the Canine Facts, Photos, and Fun You Can Get Your Paws On!* National Geographic

