

DOGS

UNIT STUDY



By
Amanda Bennett

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This book has been lovingly written for Ben and all of the children who love and care about animals, and for our daughter Katie, who had the faith and perseverance to follow her dreams and now has the D.V.M. after her name!



“God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:25

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INTRODUCTION

A warm, cuddly puppy – every child’s dream come true in many homes! Their wagging tails and playful natures just melt our hearts and make us want to own them. I was fortunate – we owned several dogs throughout my childhood, and I have fond memories of the days we spent roaming through the woods and taking off on exciting adventures around the neighborhood with our dogs. At family gatherings, we still laugh and reminisce about the time our German shepherd had thirteen puppies, which kept the four kids in our family very busy for a while!

We can laugh, learn, and value the relationship we have with “man’s best friend.” These good times create such loyalty, devotion, and trust with our pets, and we learn many lessons about life as we care for them. On one hand, we want to encourage this type of relationship with pets for our own children, but at the same time, we grownups don’t necessarily need or welcome any additional responsibilities to our already long list. As our family has grown, the children have become devoted animal lovers and one has gone on to become a veterinarian! When they were young and pleading the case for a puppy, we finally agreed, provided they work on learning all that they could about dogs. From their interest, this unit study was born.

We wanted to make certain that the children learn about not only the animal, but many other aspects, as well. This unit study presents a bridge into the animal kingdom and all of the wonders of God’s Creation. Kids have questions like “Why do dogs have whiskers?” and “What is a carnivore?” Many of us live in a somewhat sterile world, far removed from animals.

While using this unit study, your student will be introduced to a variety of topics that pertain to dogs, including:

- Animal science
- History of dogs in society
- Pet responsibilities
- Variety of dog breeds and their characteristics
- Working dogs in today’s world

What a great adventure you can embark on with this study! You can share plenty of pet memories, make some new ones, and help your child learn about responsibility. Share great classics like *Lassie Come-Home*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, *The Call of the Wild*, and many others. Learn more about famous dogs like Balto, Barry the Saint Bernard, Laika, and more.

Our children became the proud owners of two beautiful and well cared for Labrador retriever puppies that have never lacked for love and attention. We have never regretted this journey of love, wonder, and excitement, and we have

all learned so much about dogs and their care, as well as their loving kindness for their human owners. Come join us, with or without a canine companion – because as always, we never fail to enjoy the adventure of learning!

FAMILY PROJECT IDEAS

Family projects provide a great way to reinforce the material that we learn. They provide important hands-on learning, while allowing the family to have fun and be challenged at the same time. Here are a few project ideas that work well with this study:

1. One of the best places to learn about dogs first-hand is to go to a local dog show. Make sure to take the camera as well as a few notebooks for the students to take notes on things that they see or questions that they might have. Whether a dog show for purebreds or for mutts, it can be quite a memorable adventure. Take the whole family and make a day of it!
2. If possible, call your local veterinarian and see if you can arrange a field trip to visit their medical facility. The students can see the kennel areas as well as the operating facilities and observe the daily operation of a veterinary practice. While there, consider asking if the staff knows of any breeders in the area that welcome visits from students.
3. Cooking together as a family can be fun and cooking together to make treats for your dog or a friend's dog can help make memories as well as great dog snacks! There are plenty of online recipes available like [Nice Spice Dog Biscuits](#), as well as pet cookbooks available at bookstores and the library.
4. Find out if your local police force uses dogs in law enforcement, like the K-9 program. If so, see if they have periodic demonstrations of the dogs and their skills that are open to the public. If not, ask if you can bring your students out to watch the training and exercise programs.
5. If you have a family dog, consider making a stepping stone or other project where you can include the paw prints of the dog along with the handprints of the children. Take plenty of pictures of the process, follow directions, and don't forget to include the date! Sites like these offer instructions: [How to Make Your Own Paw Print Stepping Stone](#) and [How to Make Garden Stepping Stones](#)
6. Work together as a family to gather photos of your pet – both past and present – and help the children put them in order and begin to create a Family Dogs Memory Album. They will enjoy going through the photos, remembering the times and places they have been with their pets. They can even create a family pet timeline across the bottom of the album pages!
7. If you have a family dog, you probably have a place outdoors for the pet to play and perhaps spend some time. One family project that we have enjoyed over the years has been to build or fix or spruce up the dog's house. Some internet sites offer online plans and tips: [How to Build a Dog House](#) and don't overlook [Safety Concerns when Building a Dog House](#)



8. Local pet stores are fun and educational places to visit for field trips. They offer an up-close view of all kinds of dogs and pets. Some pet stores also offer periodic classes on dog training, health care, diet, etc that you might consider attending with your students.
9. Regional [American Kennel Club \(AKC\) clubs](#) usually offer periodic classes or clinics for dog training, obedience training, show training, and Junior Handling Classes.



Dogs -- Week One

Objectives

- Study the history of dogs
- Become familiar with several breeds of dogs
- Learn about one category of service dogs – Seeing Eye Dogs
- Study the AKC sporting group of dogs
- Learn about some of the presidential pets and other historical dogs
- Develop an understanding of idioms that reference “dogs”



Dogs: Week One - Day One

LOWER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Journal:

"Happiness is a warm puppy."
Charles M. Schulz

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Word Central](#)

dog
nose
bark
protect



Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia, book, or Internet site, look up the dog breed **Labrador Retriever**. Describe a Labrador Retriever in your Journal, and draw a picture of it. Where does this dog breed originate? Find this location on a world map or globe.

Website suggestions: [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever Coloring Page](#), [Labrador Retriever Video](#), and [World Atlas](#)

Read and Discover

Using an encyclopedia, dictionary, book, or Internet site, read the following questions and find the answers. Write or narrate your answers for your Journal.

1. Do you own a dog? Describe your dog or the dog that you would like to own in your journal. What kind of dog is it, and how would you describe it?
2. Pets have been a part of our lives for thousands of years. American presidents have had pets, too. What kinds of pets did these presidents have: George Washington, John Quincy Adams, and John F. Kennedy? Describe their pets and draw a picture of them in your Journal. Which presidential family had a kangaroo for a pet? **Website suggestions:** [First Pets](#) and [Presidential Pets](#)
3. What is an **idiom**? Look it up and write the definition in your journal.
4. Dogs have been an important part of society for many years, and we have developed many popular idioms concerning dogs. You will be looking up many of these idioms in the days to come and writing their meaning in your journal. Today's idiom to



investigate is “**Top dog.**” What does this idiom mean? **Website suggestion:** [Idiom](#)

Internet Resource
[Dog Coloring Page](#)

Dogs: Week One - Day One

UPPER LEVEL

Today's Quote

Copy today's quote into your Journal:

“God made the wild animals according to their kinds, the livestock according to their kinds, and all the creatures that move along the ground according to their kinds. And God saw that it was good.”

Genesis 1:25

Words of Wisdom (WOW Words)

Look up the following words in the dictionary and write the words and their definitions in your Journal. **Website suggestions:** [Webster's 1828 Dictionary](#) and [Dictionary.com](#)

originate
domesticate
instinct
intelligence

Interesting People and Places

Using an encyclopedia, book, or Internet site, look up the dog breed **Labrador Retriever**. Describe a Labrador Retriever in your Journal, including a physical description of the breed as well as its temperament. Where does this dog breed originate? Describe this province, its location, the capital, and the official language(s). **Website suggestions:** [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever](#), [Labrador Retriever Video](#), and [World Atlas](#)

Read and Discover

Using library books, encyclopedias, or Internet sites, find the answer to these questions and record your answers in your Journal along with the source of your information (book, encyclopedia, website, etc).

1. Write a brief description of the history of the Labrador Retriever in your Journal. Where did the name come from? **Website suggestion:** [Labrador Retriever History](#) and [Labrador Retriever](#)
2. Read Genesis 1:24-31 and then explain what this passage means in your Journal, and include how this relates to dogs. **Website suggestion:** [Bible Gateway](#)
3. Describe the history of dog domestication in your journal. **Website suggestions:** [History of Dogs](#) and [Domestication of Dogs](#)
4. What is an **idiom**? Write the definition in your journal, along with two examples.
5. Dogs have played an important part of our lives for thousands of years, and we have developed many popular idioms concerning dogs. You will

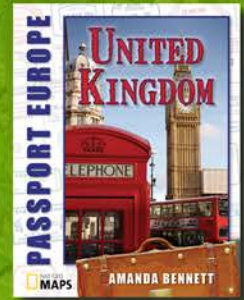
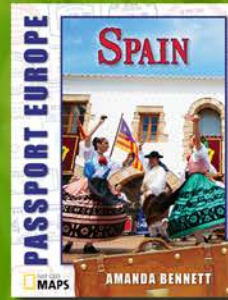
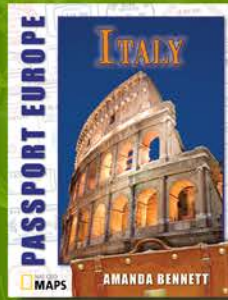
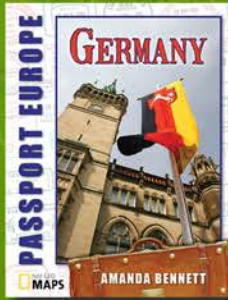
be looking up many of these idioms in the days to come and writing their meaning in your journal. Today's idiom to investigate is "Top dog." What does this idiom mean? Use it in an example in your journal. **Website suggestion:** [Idiom](#)



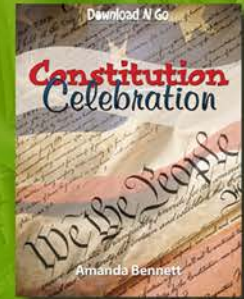
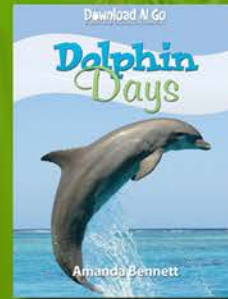
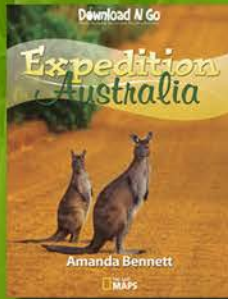
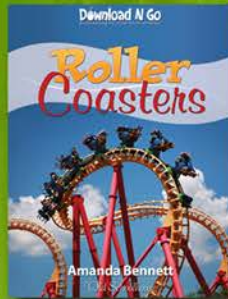
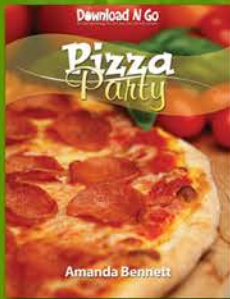
EXPLORE THE WORLD

with Amanda Bennett

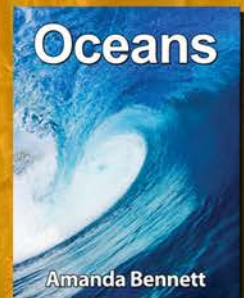
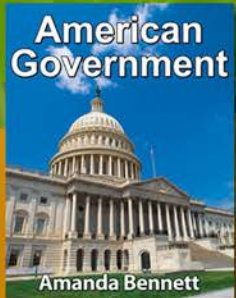
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