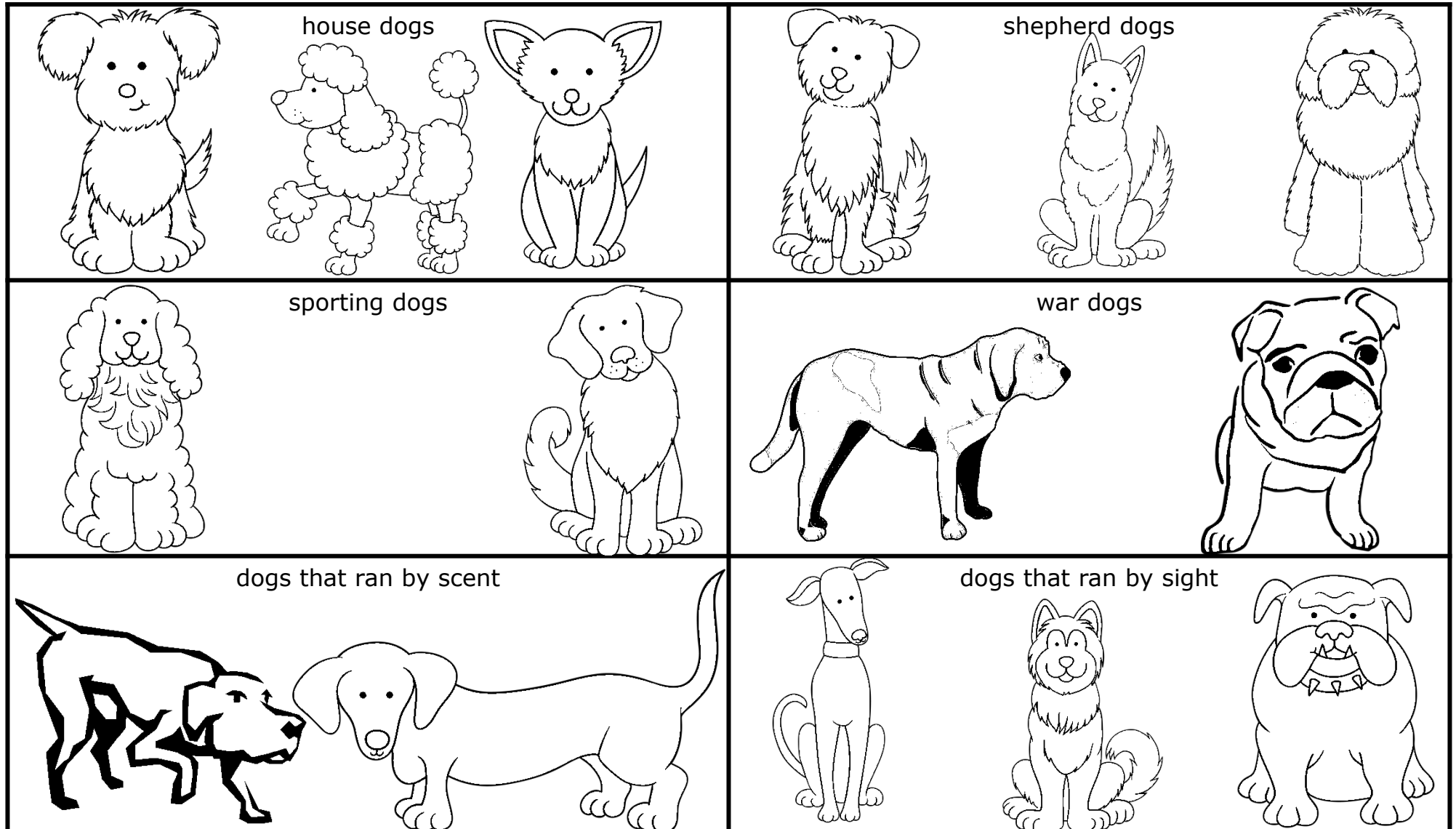


Dog Facts

Dogs have been man's pet for over 14,000 years. Dogs descended from the wolf family that roamed Europe, Asia, and North America. Scientists know that man and dogs have had a relationship for many years through their study of cave drawings, early pottery, and Asian ivory carvings.

Classifying dogs into categories began with the Romans. They had the following categories:



Classification

Today we classify dogs into similar categories. More than three hundred breeds of dogs exist worldwide. About 50 million dogs live in the United States. The American Kennel Club recognizes 148 breeds. These are divided into seven groups:

Group	Breeds	Original Uses
terrier	Airedale terrier, Bedlington terrier, bull terrier, Cairn terrier, Irish terrier, Fox Terrier, Jack Russell terrier	originally used in catching prey such as foxes, badgers, and rabbits
working	guards, guides, and herders such as collie, boxer, Alaskan malamute, German shepherd dog, and the St. Bernard	muscular, even-tempered, and obedient
sporting	pointers, retrievers, setters, and spaniels	active dogs - hunt by air scent
hound	beagles, foxhounds, and bloodhounds &	track their prey by ground scent
	greyhound type such as whippets, borzois, and salukis	hunt mainly by sight
herding	Pembroke or Cardigan Welsh Corgi	drive livestock and keep farm animals from straying
toy	Pekinese, Pomeranian, and the pug	pets and companions
non-sporting	Boston terrier, bulldog, chow, Dalmatian, and poodle	bred principally as pets and companions

Differences in Breeds

Dogs vary greatly from breed to breed. The smallest breed is the Chihuahua. It weighs only 4 pounds and is 5 inches high at the shoulders. The tallest breed is the Irish wolfhound. It is about thirty-nine inches tall at the shoulder. The St. Bernard is the heaviest dog. It can weigh about 200 pounds. The Yorkshire terrier has hair that can be two feet long while other breeds may have no hair at all such as the Mexican hairless. The fur may be curly or straight. Some dogs have two coats. The outer coat is long guard hairs and the undercoat is shorter and fluffy. These two coats protect the dog against rain and snow. Some dogs have a long muzzle while others have flat faces such as the Pug. Many breeds have pointed ears that stand up. Others have pendulous ears that hang down. Some dogs have long legs such as the greyhound. Others are extremely short such as the basset hound and the dachshund. The chow chow even has a black tongue.



[Credit](#)

The difference in overall body size between a Cane Corso and a Yorkshire terrier is over 30-times, yet both are members of the same species.

Build

Even though all these dogs vary greatly in appearance, they are identical in anatomy. They have 321 bones and 42 permanent teeth. Most dogs are able to detect scents far better than humans. They can also hear high-pitched sounds.

Life Cycle

Dogs mature by six months old. The smaller breeds usually mature before the larger breeds. Female dogs have a period of six to twelve days approximately twice a year when they are ready to mate. This is known as the season of heat. Puppies are born sixty-three days later. An average litter has three to six puppies. Small dogs usually live twelve or more years while larger dogs have a shorter lifespan.

Puppies are born helpless. They are blind and can not stand. They sleep ninety percent of the day and the other ten percent is spent nursing. Their eyes open about 13 to 15 days after birth. Between 4 to 10 weeks the puppies become attached to their mother and siblings. Puppies should not be separated from their mothers until they are eight weeks old. New puppies should be taken to a veterinarian for a physical examination and to be given vaccinations.

These include immunizations for:

Disease	Result	How it Spreads	Humans and the Disease
distemper	viral disease that damages the liver	direct contact of an infected dog's saliva, blood, or urine	measles immunization protects humans
leptospirosis	bacterial disease that damages the liver	contact with infected soil, water, food, bedding or animal bite	avoid swimming in water contaminated with animal urine
canine hepatitis	viral disease that damages the liver	between dogs	infected dog cannot transmit to humans
parvovirus	harms the intestinal tract	between dogs	does not cross between species
parainfluenza	causes respiratory problems	usually transmitted through the air	unlikely to be transferred between people and dogs
rabies	attacks the nervous system	primarily through dog bites	usually through bites from an infected animals
Lyme disease	bacterial infection	transmitted by parasitic deer ticks	no evidence that they spread the disease directly to their owners
kennel cough	respiratory disease	usually transmitted through the air	unlikely to be transferred between people and dogs
coronavirus	targets the intestinal tract	spreads from dog to dog through contact with feces	Canine coronavirus does not affect people.
roundworms	intestinal parasites	through feces of infected animals	contact with contaminated soil or dog feces
heartworm	damages heart tissue	can only be passed on by mosquitoes	can only be passed on by mosquitoes

Caring for Dogs

When a puppy is six months old it should be spayed or neutered if it is a non-breeding dog. The normal body temperature of a dog is 101.5° F. When a dog becomes too warm it sticks out its tongue and pants.

Puppies should be feed three times a day. They should have plenty of fresh drinking water. Dogs should get exercise. Dogs need a clean sleeping box. This can be made with blankets or shredded paper. If your dog is an outside pet, he will need a warm dog house with a dry, warm floor. The floor may be covered with cedar shavings, sawdust, or blankets. Outdoor dogs need shelter from the cold, rain, and sun. Indoor dogs must be taken outside regularly for elimination.



Questions - Details from Text

1. Fill in the chart.

Dog Breed	Characteristic
	smallest
	tallest
	heaviest
	longest hair
	no hair
	flat face
	long legs
	short legs
	black tongue

2. What physical features do all dogs have in common?

3. Which type of dogs live longer?

4. At what age are dogs adults?

5. How long have dogs been pets to humans?

6. How do we know how long dogs and been pets?

Inference and Application Questions

7. Which breed would you take hunting if you must cross over streams and why? foxhound or greyhound

8. How many times heavier is the St. Bernard than the Chihuahua?

9. Which has a higher temperature – humans or dogs?

10. Did you notice that some of the dog breeds in the article were capitalized while others were not. Here is the rule. Do not capitalize dog breeds unless they come from proper nouns.

Examples

- Chihuahua – comes from Chihuahua, Mexico
- Jack Russell – named for a dog breeder
- Saint Bernard – named for the St. Bernard Pass
- Doberman – named for a dog breeder

Exercise – Write each dog breed correctly. For each breed that contains capitals tell why.

Dog Breed	Write Correctly	Explanation
TERRIER		
LABRADOR		
POODLE		
GREAT PYRENEES		
AFGHAN HOUND		
PUG		

Questions - Analyzing Text

Use the Venn diagram to compare how the American Kennel Club classification of dogs is the same and different from the way the Romans grouped dogs? Write your results in paragraph form.

A Venn diagram with three overlapping sections. The left section is labeled 'American Kennel Club', the middle section is labeled 'Both', and the right section is labeled 'Romans'. Each section contains ten horizontal lines for writing.

Complete the chart by checking the boxes that apply.

	distemper	leptospirosis	Canine hepatitis	parvovirus	parainfluenza	rabies	Lyme disease	kennel cough	coronavirus	roundworms	heartworm
Humans are likely to catch this disease from dogs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Questions - Details from Text (Answer Key)

1. Fill in the chart.

Dog Breed	Characteristic
Chihuahua	smallest
Irish wolfhound	tallest
St. Bernard	heaviest
Yorkshire terrier	longest hair
Mexican hairless	no hair
pug	flat face
greyhound	long legs
basset hound and the dachshund	short legs
chow chow	black tongue

2. What physical features do all dogs have in common?

321 bones, 42 permanent teeth

3. Which type of dogs live longer?

Smaller dogs live longer than larger dogs.

4. At what age are dogs adults?

6 months

5. How long have dogs been pets to humans?

14,000 years

6. How do we know how long dogs and been pets?

artifacts such as cave drawings, pottery, and ivory carvings

Inference and Application Questions (Answer Key)

7. Which breed would you take hunting if you must cross over streams and why? foxhound or greyhound

A dog that hunts by sight would be better in a location where the scent is lost by crossing over a creek. This would make the greyhound a better choice.

8. How many times heavier is the St. Bernard than the Chihuahua?

A Chihuahua weighs around 4 pounds and St. Bernard weighs around 200 pounds. $200 \div 4 = 50$ (50 times heavier)

9. Which has a higher temperature – humans or dogs?

The normal body temperature of a dog is 101.5° F while humans is 98.6° F. Dogs have a higher body temperature.

10. Did you notice that some of the dog breeds in the article were capitalized while others were not. Here is the rule. Do not capitalize dog breeds unless they come from proper nouns.

Examples

Chihuahua – comes from Chihuahua, Mexico

Jack Russell – named for a dog breeder

Saint Bernard – named for the St. Bernard Pass

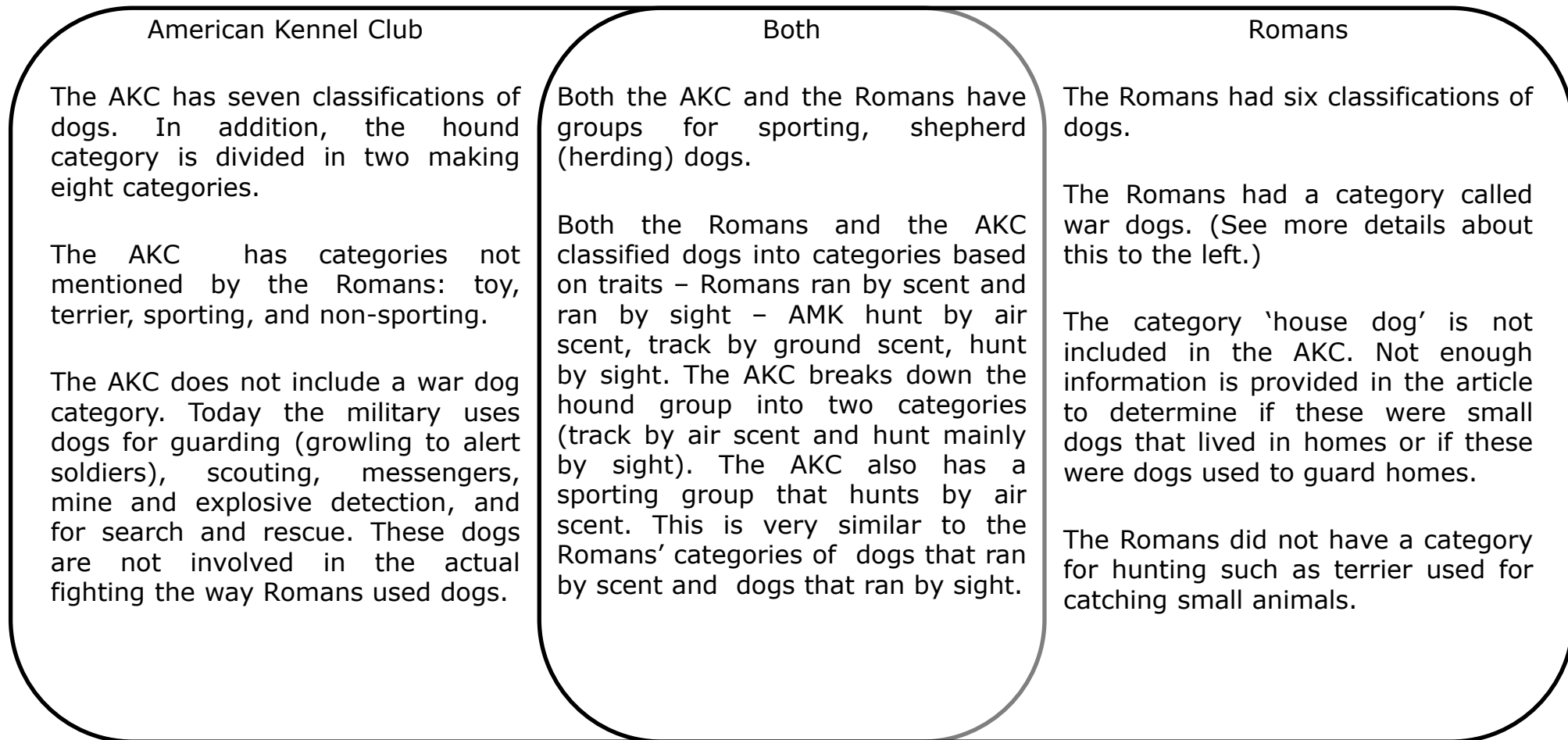
Doberman – named for a dog breeder

Exercise – Write each dog breed correctly. For each breed that contains capitals tell why.

Dog Breed	Write Correctly	Explanation
TERRIER	terrier	
LABRADOR	Labrador	province in Canada
POODLE	poodle	
GREAT PYRENEES	Great Pyrenees	mountain range in Europe
AFGHAN HOUND	Afghan hound	country in Asia - Afghanistan
PUG	pug	

Questions - Analyzing Text (Answer Key)

Use the Venn diagram to compare how the American Kennel Club classification of dogs is the same and different from the way the Romans grouped dogs? Write your results in paragraph form.



Complete the chart by checking the boxes that apply.

	distemper	leptospirosis	Canine hepatitis	parvovirus	parainfluenza	rabies	Lyme disease	kennel cough	coronavirus	roundworms	heartworm
Humans are likely to catch this disease from dogs.		X				X				X	

Answer Key Teacher Notes

Over 90% of people in the US are vaccinated against measles which also protects them from getting distemper. This makes Americans unlikely to get distemper from dogs.

Canine Hepatitis is different from Hepatitis C that humans get.

Dog Themed Webpages at Book Units Teacher

[DOG MAIN](#)

[GAMES AND ACTIVITIES](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[DOG THEME NOVEL STUDIES](#)

