

Lesson Title:	“Puppies!” Traveling with Your Dog
Background Information	
Created By:	Kate Newmyer, Seabrook, TX, 2024 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™
Grade Level/ Subject:	K-12, Homeschool
Learning Objectives/ Essential Questions:	<p>How do mushers use their summer training time? Where do they go and how do they prepare young sled dogs?</p> <p>Where are dog-friendly places to go this summer with your dog?</p> <p>What budget considerations should you plan for?</p> <p>How will you keep your dog safe while traveling?</p> <p>How will you preserve and share your dog’s adventures?</p>
Standards Addressed	<p>Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS)</p> <p>Math: The student uses mathematical processes to acquire and demonstrate mathematical understanding. The student is expected to: (A) apply mathematics to problems arising in everyday life, society, and the workplace.</p> <p>Geography: The student uses simple geographic tools, including maps and globes. The student is expected to: Identify and use information on maps and globes using basic map elements such as title, cardinal directions, and legend; create maps to show routes and places within the home, school, and community.</p> <p>ELA: Knowledge and skills. Generate student-selected and teacher-guided questions for formal and informal inquiry; develop and revise a plan; identify and gather relevant information from a variety of sources; synthesize information from a variety of sources; examine sources for reliability, credibility, and bias.</p>
Materials Needed:	<p>1 A dog (or three)</p> <p>2 Notebook</p> <p>3 Camera</p> <p>4 The following web sites: https://www.google.com/maps https://www.bringfido.com/</p> <p>5 Any other web sites you will need while travel planning</p> <p>6 Calculator</p> <p>7 If traveling, the means to do so—car, airfare, dog crate, dog accessories such as leash, bowls, and toys, food, blanket, etc.</p> <p>8 Dog travel bingo, included at end of lesson</p>

Procedure

Engagement:

Ask your students these questions to generate a discussion.

What kind of dog do you have? What does your dog like to do? Is there anywhere you'd like to go with your dog that you haven't been to yet? Where do you think the most dog-friendly places are?

What are some things that mushers like to do with their dogs in the summer? Show images from the Iditarod web site or other sources that show the fun sled dogs have in the summer—from summer glacier tours, to mud training, to free running puppies, or other adventures.

Get students thinking and researching about local places you can bring your dog. For example, there are many state parks within 1-2 hours' drive of Houston, and we also have many hike/bike trails nearby. Students might be surprised at the types of places that are dog-friendly.

Lesson:

1 Have students generate a list of their dogs' likes and dislikes. If they do not have a dog, use any sled dog from this year's musher list. Students can visit the web sites and look for descriptions the mushers write about their dogs. Here are some examples from [Black Spruce Dog Sledding](#).

2 Let students research a place they would like to go with their dog, based on what they know about their dog. (Gus disliked beaches, so I would not have taken him on my example trip!) If you need to, start small—go to a nearby store or walk to a park. You could give younger students a list of local places to choose from with pictures, so they can decide what they will need to bring. Older students could plan a longer, multi-day excursion.

3 Students will put together a plan for their trip with their dog. This might include but not be limited to the route you will take to get there, the costs for getting there, meals, guidelines the facility has regarding dogs, and any extra costs (some hotels charge pet fees) or equipment needed.

These plans can be as detailed as you would like. I've included a sample template for students to plan their trip and an example.

4 Show students how to use google maps to calculate distances and plan routes. Use the web site BringFido to help students plan dog-friendly destinations, but always call first to make sure the guidelines haven't changed. Click the links to go through to the main web site of the attraction, and double check that you have the necessary supplies and equipment, such as life-vests, etc.

5 Students can work in teams to design the perfect dog-friendly vacation. For an extra challenge, let students plan an excursion from Fairbanks or Wasilla specifically for sled dogs. Research trails, parks, and camping areas that mushers might use in the summer to train their puppies.

	<p>6 If students do not have a dog, plan an adventure for a plushie dog. Document the plushie's adventures in a similar way they might do for a pet dog.</p>
<p>Conclusion:</p>	<p>Have students reflect on the following questions: What did students notice about traveling with their dog? What kinds of places are accessible for dogs? What kinds of places are not? Why do you think this is? Are the costs different for traveling with a dog than without? If students completed any travel, what was their experience? (I think with time, Gus could have learned to like beaches as much as I do.) How does training your dog to go to different places change your own travel experience?</p>
<p>Assessment:</p>	<p>1 Students can write a letter or series of postcards detailing their experiences. Bonus points for writing from the dog's perspective. 2 Talk about why it's important to travel with your dog. Write a persuasive letter or paragraph urging people to bring their dog along when they travel. 3 Have students look at one another's plans and get ideas for traveling with their dog. Students can also double-check each other's costs and mileage totals.</p>
<p>Enrichment</p>	
<p>Enrichment/ Reinforcement Suggestions:</p>	<p>1 Over the summer, students and their families can complete my dog travel bingo page, included. Document the experiences in a notebook, scrapbook, or on a social media site such as Instagram. Get five in a row or go for a blackout! 2 Once your dog has become accustomed to going places with you, consider enrolling your dog in a Therapeutic Visitation program, agility training, or teaching your dog to do scent work. 3 If your dog struggles to travel, don't worry. You can introduce one small thing at a time and learn what your dog likes and doesn't like. This process is meant to be fun for both you and your fur bestie. Document your dog's learning and abilities and share it with friends and family! 4 Research the many other fun activities to do with your dog that I haven't covered here—for example, my friend's dog Luce is a "BARK Ranger" at several state parks. 5 Combine this lesson with my ethology lesson plan (observing animal behavior). Observe your dog before, during, and after the trip, or over a series of excursions, and note any changes in behavior.</p>

Dog Travel Bingo Board

Use this bingo board as inspiration for activities you can do with your dog. For each activity, research a local or faraway place, determine the budget you would need to travel there, and any other supplies or equipment needed. Be sure to include your family in the planning to help determine what activities are appropriate and preferable to your dog and your family's budget and time.

Visit a big box pet supply store with your dog and let your dog pick out a treat.	Visit the AKC Web Site and download the Emergency First Aid for Dogs booklet. Share with your family and practice with your dog.	Create a gourmet, dog-friendly meal for your dog that you can share together. Visit this site for ideas.	Create a walk schedule for your dog that you can do each day. Calculate the miles and compare it to Iditarod checkpoints.	Create a dog-go bag for your car, RV, or for walks that includes training treats, poop bags, a leash, collapsible water bowl, and a toy.
Bake a batch of homemade dog biscuits for your dog. Let your dog lick the bowl!	Go to a lake, beach, or other body of water. Make sure to follow local safety rules.	March in a parade! Many places have parades you can enter your dog in. Be sure to dress your dog up in a safe manner.	Take your dog to a Starbucks drive-through for a Puppacino!	Build a treat puzzle for your dog with supplies you have at home. Check Pinterest for ideas.
Plan an overnight stay at a dog-friendly hotel. Research the rules ahead of time and make a budget.	Dine on the patio of a dog-friendly restaurant. Research ones in your area and bring a bowl for water.	FREE SPACE Add your own fun and dog-friendly activity!	Throw a dog party. Make a dog-safe cake, have dog-safe snacks, and invite your friends.	Grab a kiddie pool, sprinkler or other summer water toys and teach your dog how to enjoy them safely.
Make a bowl of popcorn and cuddle with your dog while watching the movie Togo, Iron Will, or Iditarod Insider videos.	Teach your dog a new trick. Watch a dog-training video to learn how to properly do it so that everyone has fun.	Learn how to give your dog a massage. Mushers give sled dogs recovery massages. Use this site or find a good video.	Research a local trail you have never been to and take your dog for a hike, following safety guidelines.	Go camping with your dog. Book a dog-friendly cabin or use your tent or RV. Follow local guidelines.
Find a 5K or fun run/walk that you and your dog can do together. Be sure to adhere to race safety guidelines.	Research foods that are safe and unsafe for your dog. Create a poster and share with family and friends. Reward your dog with safe treats.	Take your dog to a photogenic place such as a park, urban setting, or create one in your home. Do a photo shoot and share the images on social media.	Create a Halloween or other costume that is safe for your dog. Get creative with supplies you have or visit a craft store.	Visit an off-leash dog park. Make sure your dog has the appropriate vaccinations before going.

Dog Travel Plan

<p>My trip:</p> <p>Dates:</p> <p>Home vet:</p> <p>Destination emergency vet:</p> <p>Emergency Contact Info:</p>	<p>Destinations:</p>
<p>Route & miles:</p>	<p>Dog Guidelines:</p>
<p>Budget:</p>	<p>Dog Supplies to Bring:</p>

Dog Travel Plan—Kate's Example

<p>Exploring Corpus Christi with Gus!</p> <p>Dates: July 29 – August 1</p> <p><u>Emergency Contact Info</u></p> <p>Clear Creek Animal Hospital (home vet): address & phone</p> <p>Vet in Corpus Christi: Dr. Moody Foy Harley Address & phone</p> <p>Human Emergency Contact: Nancy M (cell)</p>	<p>Destinations:</p> <p>Day 1: Houston Arboretum, Capri Beach Hotel, Corpus Christi</p> <p>Day 2: Michael J. Ellis Beach and Seawall, Corpus Christi</p> <p>Day 3: Dolphin Connection, Ingleside</p> <p>Day 4: return home</p>														
<p>Route:</p> <p>Home to Houston Arboretum, 39 miles via Hwy 225/1-10</p> <p>Arboretum to Corpus Christi via Hwy 59/77, 214 miles 4 hours with stops.</p> <p>Hotel to beach: 46 miles round-trip via Ocean Drive</p> <p>Hotel to Dolphin Connection: 40 miles round trip via Hwy 181/361</p> <p>Dolphin Connection to home: 213 miles via Hwy 77/59, 4 hours with stops</p>	<p>Dog Guidelines:</p> <p>Arboretum: keep dogs leashed, pick up after your dog.</p> <p>Hotel: no fee, large dogs allowed (no cats)</p> <p>Beach: dogs on a leash or under verbal command</p> <p>Dolphin Connection: up to medium dogs; dog must be wearing life vest</p>														
<p>Budget:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; margin-top: 10px;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Arboretum, free admission</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$6 parking</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Hotel (\$129 x 3)</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$387 plus tax</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Gas 52 miles at 26.6mpg x \$2.86 per gallon</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$59</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dolphin Connection 2-person charter</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$195</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Human meals: \$60 per day x 4 days</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$240</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Dog life vest</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$20</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">Total:</td> <td style="padding: 2px;">\$907</td> </tr> </table>	Arboretum, free admission	\$6 parking	Hotel (\$129 x 3)	\$387 plus tax	Gas 52 miles at 26.6mpg x \$2.86 per gallon	\$59	Dolphin Connection 2-person charter	\$195	Human meals: \$60 per day x 4 days	\$240	Dog life vest	\$20	Total:	\$907	<p>Dog Supplies to Bring:</p> <p>4 days' food (8 cups) plus extra</p> <p>Food and water bowls</p> <p>Harness and leash to wear, extra leash</p> <p>Dog bed</p> <p>Paw pad ointment</p> <p>Collapsible Water Bowl and bottled water</p> <p>Training treats</p> <p>Dog poop bags</p> <p>Antibacterial wipes</p> <p>Small backpack for dog items</p> <p>“dog” towels for the beach</p> <p>Car mat, optional</p> <p>doggie life vest</p>
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