

THE HISTORY of the DOMESTIC DOG



Hoogangi Łééchaq'í
Hólónígíí Baa Hané

History of the Domestic Dog
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*First Place Winner of the Prestigious ASBA "Golden Bell
Award" for K-8 Curriculum.*

COMPILED AND RESEARCHED

by

SUSAN FADLER with

SPECIAL APPRECIATION to

Chinle Curriculum Center

Gloria Means
and Staff at the

Dean C. Jackson Center for Navajo Culture and Studies

Marjorie Thomas
and Staff
Darlene Redhair
Peter Thomas

Resource Specialists

Will Tsosie
Mike Mitchell

Culture Teachers

Lorraine Begay
Pat Denny

The Humane Society of the United States
The Staff at Best Friends Animal Sanctuary
The Wilson Foundation

Veterinarian Consultant

Dr. Janet Forrer

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A R.U.F.F. MISSION

1. GOAL: The dog has an interesting history. How they came to be what they are today, and how they have been of service to humans is a factor.

Problem Statement: Many students and adults sometimes look upon the dog as a low, useless, or dirty creature. Hopefully, through education, attitudes can be changed.

2. Measurable behavioral objectives: Students will demonstrate understanding of the concept visually, in an oral text, and written where applicable (age consideration).

3. Specific strategies which focus upon students needs: Leading questions that utilizes the five senses. When did the earliest association between dogs and people begin? Did man choose the dog, or did dogs choose to be with man?

4. Awareness or readiness level: Students will respond to an appropriate question and answer at any level.

5. Specific plan: (Materials needed) Start a discussion on genealogy. What is it and what does it mean to search for your ancestors?

6. Student practice (student activities) Students will do a creative writing lesson involving the history of the dog. Encourage students to use their imagination and write a story: i.e. Pretend that you are the first human to come into contact with the first "dog-like carnivore that would evolve into the first dog, which will be the ancestor of our domestic dog. You are in a time machine* that crashed lands in ancient times, in a prehistoric* landscape. As you awaken and stagger from your capsule, * you find a dog-like creature staring at you....! What happens next?"

7. Checking for understanding: (outcome based) There is a list of questions involving the history and early association between man Students are encouraged to use this list of questions as a tool to "revisitipt. The first reading was a survey or a scanning type, the second reading is a study-type for comprehension, used as a group decision.d to crital thinking skills that will draw upon the students experiences.

8. Specific affective and cognitive areas addressed: Students will be able to see the historical connection between man and dog and how useful the dog has been to man. They will also understand what genealogy is, and the importance of knowing one's

ancestry.

9. Specific teaching strategies which include student involvement: After the students have finished their creative writing they are encouraged to talk about their pet dog (if they have one) or do a report on their favorite breed or type of dog, or, a report on their family genealogy.

10. Other (as applicable to lesson) Appropriate for grades 3 to 6 with teacher interpretation and discretion.

THE HISTORY OF THE DOMESTIC DOG Hooghangi L'ééchaq'í Hólónígíí Baa Hané

Marjorie Thomas, a Navajo elder and the Associate Superintendent of Diné Studies and culture said:

"the dog's duty in Navajo tradition is to be the guardian of the front door of the hogan. According to tradition, the dog would put out veins in the earth, going from the front door of the hogan, out far enough in order to protect the doorway. When any stranger, or something unusual approached, the dog sensed the approach by feeling the vibrations in the earth through the veins in the ground. The dog, protector of the front door, would then sound the alarm of possible danger."

Will Tsosie, Navajo historian says:

"In the Navajo tradition, the dog is believed to be a sign of poverty. This association leads to much misunderstanding about the dog, and the Navajo."

The dog has become so dependent on man that it has a difficult time finding food on its own accord. Dogs are true domesticated, *hooghangí hólónígíí, (to become tame, to be dependant on man)*, animals, that have lived beside man, with man, and have been in service to man, for over 12,000 years.



Three types of dog existed in America before the Europeans came. They were distinct from the wild dogs and wolves. They were: The Inuit dog, the Hair Indian dog, and a smaller, Terrier-like dog found in the South.

The Inuit , are a Native People of the Arctic land stretching from central Alaska to the northern coast of Canada and onto the island of Greenland. Their ancestors came to North America from Asia in about 3,000 B.C., many thousands of years after the first Indian people arrived on the continent. The Inuit are more closely related to Asian people than to other Native American people. The Inuit are better known by the name of "Eskimo" a mispronunciation of an Algonquian word meaning "eaters of raw meat." They prefer to the term "Inuit," which means "people" in their language.

The Inuit had to travel long distances over the ice. They used sleds pulled by dogs. For thousands of years, the Inuit bred and trained dogs (later called huskies) that were perfect for this work. Their dogs had four inches of fur that kept them warm even in blizzards. They were very strong. Working in teams of seven to eight dogs they could pull a sled loaded with as much as 800 pounds of cargo.

The Inuit dogs also helped with the hunt, using their well-developed sense of smell, they could track polar bears. When the dogs found a bear, a hunter released their harnesses and let the dogs run toward his prey. With the polar bear distracted by their biting and barking, a hunter could sneak up on the huge animal and kill it with a knife before it had a chance to attack. Inuit hunters often dressed their dogs in small sealskin boots to protect their paws from sharp ice crystals.

The Hair Indian dog was the Northern Native American peoples only domesticated, *hooghangí hólónígíí*, animal in pre-Columbian times, and was used extensively for hauling, up until the beginning of the nineteenth century when it disappeared completely. This dog was also used for ceremonial purposes, especially in the sacred Heyoka Ceremony of the Lakota People.

The Coast Salish Native American people bred special small woolly dogs. Each spring, they would shave the dogs' hair, spin it into yarn, and use it to weave warm woolly blankets.

The small Terrier-like dog from the South was used exclusively for food and has since disappeared.

"When the Great Spirit created our people and the four-legged's, He caused a great chasm to open between them. The dog, seeing the widening

crack, ran forward and leapt over to join the human beings, leaving the rest of the four-legged's on the other side."

This legend is only one of many myths, *nákéé' náháne'* (*a story, a theme, an object, or a character regarded as embodying an aspect of a culture*), which seek to explain the special relationship that exists between the human beings and its canine, *lééchqá'í noolnínígíí* (*of, relating to, or characteristic of the canids*), friends, members of the four-legged beings.

The dog is of the **Canis familiaris**, of the dog family, Canidae. History suggests that the dog was one of the earliest of *hooghangí hólónígíí* animals. These early dogs resembled the dingo, a wild dog native to Australia. It cannot be stated with certainty when or how this association began. No direct evidence exists to support a theory concerning the origin of the human-dog relationship.

Because dogs often tend to be scavengers, *yaa/nahodidá* (*animals that feed on dead or decaying matter*), it has been suggested that dogs adopted, *yoosqáq* (*to take into one's family*), humans rather than the other way around.

The earliest remains of *hooghangí hólónígíí* dogs date from the late Mesolithic Period (Middle Stone Age). This close association, which started in prehistorical, *atk'idáá' dahinánée*,

(*belonging to the era before recorded history*) times, has produced an animal that is today more responsive and receptive, *yidiits'a'* (*ready or willing to receive favorably*), to his master than any other animal.



Scientists believe that the dog gradually evolved, *hazlǐǐ'* (*to develop or achieve gradually*), from a weasel like animal called Miacis, which lived about 40 million years ago. They think that Miacis was the ancestor, *azází* (*a person or animal from whom people or animals are descended*), not only of dogs but also of such other mammals as bears, cats, raccoons, and skunks.



By about 15 million years ago, a descendant, *hazází béé hózingo bits'áádoó joogáǐgíí* (*a person, an animal, or a plant whose descent can be traced to a particular individual or group*), of Miacis called Tomarctus had developed. Tomarctus probably looked much like a wolf and had many of the dog's social instincts. From Tomarctus came all the members, *ahídadéét'i'ígíí, ahéelchíín* (*one that belongs to a group or an organization*), of the dog family--that is, dogs, wolves, coyotes, jackals, and foxes.

Experts disagree on the more recent *azází* of the dog. Some believe that modern, *dííjǐǐdi* (*of or relating to recent times or the present*), dogs developed from small Asian wolves.

Distinct differences between the behavior patterns of dogs and wolves indicate that the animals probably have very different recent origins. Other experts suggest that modern dogs may have developed from dingo-like animals that prehistoric people tamed and perhaps crossbred with wolves.



The ease with which the dog and wolf can be bred together may indicate that the wolf could possibly be the domestic, *hooghangí hólonígíí* (*of or relating to the family: being tame*), dog's nearest wild relative. Having lived in close association, *bił ahééhojǐlzin* (*to join as a partner, ally, or friend*), with humans for approximately 12,000 years, people began to selectively breed dogs for specific purposes.



Could the wolf be a relative of the dog?

We have to try and imagine what it would have been like during the first stages of co-operation between dog and prehistoric man. At that time, man was a nomadic, *naaná'boldah, naaná'oo'néét* (*a*

member of a group of people who have no fixed home and move according to the seasons from place to place in search of food and water), hunter, and plant gatherers, not only forever moving in search of food, but also themselves the prey of the larger *carnivores*, *naaldlooshii atsi' yiyánígíí (flesh-eating animals)*.



Many experts think that garbage dumps first attracted dogs to the camps of the hunters and gatherers. Dogs found it easier to feed on garbage than to hunt for themselves, and so they gradually came to *depend*, *ba'jólí (to rely on, especially for support or maintenance)*, on people for food. When a food kill had been made, the smell of the decaying meat and hides would attract scavenging packs of wild dogs.

If food was *abundant*, *łá'ígo (plentiful)*, these dogs were tolerated by man, and they would tend to follow the tribe's wanderings. People whose survival depends both on successful hunting and on avoiding the larger predatory animals would have had to be very familiar with the ways of prey and also their enemies. In this way, prehistoric man was way ahead of modern man in his awareness of animal behavior. It would not take long for these early hunters to realize that the pack of dogs around the camp could scent and hear prey animals long before the hunters and gatherers did.

At the same time, dogs, being familiar with feeding on *carrion*, *dííłdzid (dead and decaying flesh)*, from the camp, would drive off the smaller scavengers and loudly announce anything that approached the camp.



Prehistoric man soon began to value the dog. Realizing that the camps could be protected and helped by the watchfulness of the dog, the first attempt at *hooghangí hólónígíí* and taming was to leave food for the dogs. This theory gains support because these same functions are performed by dogs for present day hunter and gatherer societies.



The first great step towards *hooghangí hólónígíí* was taken when man and dog went hunting together. Bones of a large number of wild horses found in France suggest that at a very early stage in their relationship, man and packs of dogs combined to panic herds of grazing animals over the edge of cliffs.

The resulting massacre more than sufficed for the needs of both. Dogs would also scent a wounded animal in hiding and hold it at bay until the hunters could arrive and complete the kill. Gradually, instead of following behind to share the spoils, dogs began to precede the hunters, finding and tracking game.



As well as an early warning system and a hunting animal, man quickly found other uses for the dog. It is probable that young puppies at the weaning stage were taken into the camp

and fed. These semi-tame animals, it is thought, were used as a food source, if needed. Even today, dogs are still eaten in some parts of the world. There is no reason to doubt that this was one of the earliest uses of the dog.

By the time man turned from hunting to keeping flocks and herds, the dog had become necessary as a guard against predators and a herding animal.

The modern Border Collie when penning sheep, shows by the slinking, *yaa naa'na'go (sneak)*, gait, *atháásdeest áalgo (a particular way of moving)*, and the fixed stare that this herding skill was derived, *yíhooł'áá' (to obtain or receive from a source)*, from the instincts, *ı́ ééhózin bił ho'dichíhígíí (an inborn pattern of behavior that is characteristic of a species and is often a response to specific environmental stimuli)*, of a wild dog when hunting. The final dash and the kill are absent but nearly all the other movements of a sheepdog working sheep are those of a predator, *naaldlooshii yildeełígíí (an organism that lives by preying on other organisms)*, stalking prey, *bi'didánígíí (an animal hunted or caught for food; quarry)*.

The Collie is a breed of dog that originated in Scotland, probably during the 1600's. Scottish farmers used the dog to guard and control flocks of sheep. Like other sheepdogs, the collie have thick, weatherproof coats. Their intelligence, willingness to work, and

good eyesight suit these dogs for taking care of sheep. British colonists brought collies to America during the 1700's.

It was in harnessing and adapting this *ı́ ééhózin bił ho'dichíhígíí* in the dog that man made his greatest step forward in his use of this animal. These stages in *hooghangí hólónígíí* took place in the Middle Eastern countries. After taming dogs, people began to breed them for special physical features and particular abilities; such as to guard or to hunt. Evidence suggests that by the time the dog reached Europe it was already being used as a sheepdog.

Historians have some idea of the appearance of these early dogs from the remains found by the Baltic Sea. In the late Stone Age the people who lived there built houses which stood on stilts in the water. They kept a small Spitz type dog with a wedge shaped head, prick ears and probably a bushy tail.

In the areas of the Middle East where domestication, *hooghangí hólónígíí*, had originated different types of dogs were already being bred with some care at a time when the more primitive people of the north were still at a much earlier stage of development. Egyptian pictures of 4000 B.C. show a greyhound type of dog, the Saluki, probably the oldest of all living present day breeds.

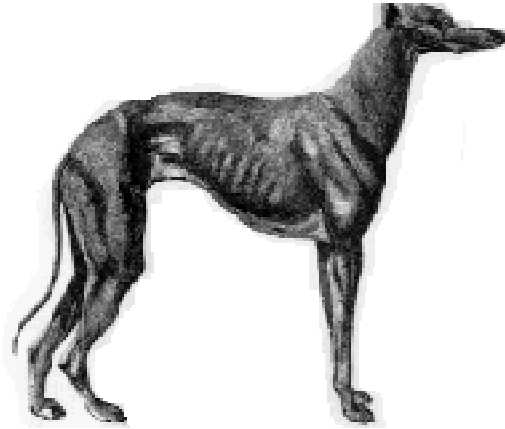
The greyhound type of dog hunts by sight rather than scent and uses its

superior speed to catch prey. The hot still air of desert countries carries little scent but the visibility is often excellent, enabling the slightest movement to be seen at a great distance. Greyhounds were used to hunt gazelle and other small antelope in their country of origin.

The ancient Greeks raised large hunting dogs called mastiffs. The Romans kept dogs as pets, to hunt, and to herd sheep. The ancient Chinese bred watchdogs and hunting dogs and used dogs for food. Native Americans developed their own breeds, centuries before Europeans brought their dogs to the New World.

During the Middle Ages (A.D. 400's to 1500's) people throughout Europe used hounds to hunt. In the late 1500's, an English scholar named John Caius wrote a description of English dogs. He listed 16 breeds, including hounds, mastiffs, sheepdogs, and terriers. Traders and explorers from the Middle East took along their dogs as valuable items of trade and helped to introduce the **hooghangí hólónígíí** dog into other parts of the world.

A number of different types of dogs, some very similar to modern breeds, began to appear in the Middle East. The Egyptians had a great talent for domesticating animals. Species that are wild today were kept by them and were at least semi-tame.



Greyhound

The greyhound hunts by sight rather than scent and uses its superior speed to catch prey. The hot still air of desert countries carries little scent but the visibility is often excellent, enabling the slightest movement to be seen at a great distance. Greyhounds were used to hunt gazelle and other small antelope in their country of origin.

This skill with animals is also apparent in the pictures of their dogs, which were obviously bred with knowledge and care. By 3000 B.C. two kinds of greyhound appear, the second having large upright ears and looking very much like the modern Ibizan Hound. A little later the Saluki is shown with small pendant, **nahííla**, (**hanging down**), ears and slight feathering on the legs and tail.



The Saluki is probably the oldest of all present-day breeds. It was existing in the Middle East at least 4,000 years ago. At the same time there were

small, toy dogs of the Spitz type of which mummified remains have been found in tombs, decorated with ivory bracelets and ornate collars, proof that they were highly regarded.

These early pictures show characteristics which distinguish many of the modern breeds of dog. A tightly curled tail, never found on a wild dog, appears on a small hunting breed looking like the modern Basenji.



Dachshund

Long, low dogs with short legs looked like the modern Dachshund. The Dachshund originated in Germany, where it was trained to hunt badgers. The word dachshund is German for badger hound. The small prick ears of true wild dogs is changed to larger upright bat ears on one type of greyhound and a small folded rose ear on another.

The Egyptians also kept tiny dogs as house pets. Some of the remains of these dogs were found mummified in tombs along with their masters. These animals could have been used as watch dogs and companions. They were highly

valued.

Mastiffs appear on early pictures found in Babylonian, Assyrian, and Egyptian art. They are shown pulling down heavy game animals and as guard and watch dogs. They were also used for war. Around their necks were massive spiked collars. From their size, relative to the men leading them, these dogs were very capable of killing a man. Accounts tell of large numbers of such dogs appearing on the battle field.

Mastiffs like this are believed to have reached Britain with the Phoenician traders and discovered by the Roman invaders. What impressed the Romans was the size and ferocity, *ayóó (having a savage and violent nature)*, of these British dogs. They were sent to Rome to take part in the gladiator, *anáál na'ahínítaahígíí (a person, captive, or slave, trained to entertain the public by engaging in mortal combat with another person or animal in the ancient Roman arena)*, exhibits, *danél'í (displays)*. Their famespread throughout the Roman Empire.



The Middle Eastern peoples had no need for and never bred the hounds that hunt by scent; dogs with high domed foreheads and long pendant ears.

These dogs evolved in the cooler, milder climates further north where the

thickness of the vegetation would prevent a greyhound from seeing game, but the humidity in the atmosphere produced good scenting conditions. These hounds were bred for good noses and for the purpose of trailing game, wearing it down rather than overtaking it with speed.



Hound dogs, in particular Bloodhounds is a breed of dog that has a keen sense of smell. In spite of its name, the Bloodhound is not vicious and has no special fondness for blood. A better name for this dog would be blooded hound, because of its early records of pedigree in Europe.

This hound's sensitive nose enables it to detect foot scent on the ground and body scent brushed off on bushes. Humans shed thousands of skin cells every second, leaving a trail that the Bloodhound can follow. Trained bloodhounds can usually follow a trail that is several hours old. Some can follow a trails if the scent is not destroyed by rain or other scents. Today, Bloodhounds have helped capture escaped criminals and are used for search and rescue.

The early Greeks knew hounds of this type and used them for deer hunting. In general they did not exist in any numbers until the continent of Europe had achieved a stable and rich enough culture for the wealthy to indulge in a passion for hunting and the chase. Game laws of the Middle Ages reflect the importance of hunting to the nobility. It was probable that the widest variety of scent hounds were kept and bred for nobility only.



As well as these hound dogs, various types of spaniels are pictured. They are shown pointing game birds or flushing them into nets. Europeans also found and put up birds for hawking and falconry, sports which reached their peak during this period of history.



By 2000 BC the Chinese were also breeding several different types of dog with skill. This interest and expert knowledge about the dog continued in China almost up to the present day. Not only were careful accounts kept of kennel management and the appearance of new breeds but specific types were bred for meat, fur, hauling sledges, hunting, etc. The greatest proof of Far Eastern Chinese skill in dog breeding, however, lies in the evidence of the small, flat-faced toy dogs that were produced there.

Modern dog breeders are very

aware of the possible results of miniaturization. It can often produce skeletal abnormalities injurious to a dog's health. From the far East came the Pekingese, Pug and Shih Tzu. They are all hardy, long-lived toy dogs which could only have been produced by skilled and knowledgeable breeding over the centuries.

Nearly all present-day breeds were well established in Europe by the 1800's.

At that time, the first kennel clubs were formed and they began to set up special standards for the recognized breeds of the time. Several additional breeds, such as the Australian terrier and the Rhodesian Ridgeback were also recognized during the 1900's.

Since that time, breeders have developed many different types of dogs



= thematical tie-ins with genealogy, ancient history, and social studies, reading, critical thinking, biology, science, culture, creative writing, and animal sciences.

Possible Questions for Consideration:

1. What is genealogy?
2. Why is it important for one to know their "roots"?
3. What first attracted dogs to the campsites of early man?
4. What is the oldest breed of dog believed to be?
5. How do scientists think the dog become a domesticated animal?
6. When did the earliest association between dogs and people begin?
7. What does domesticated mean?
8. What is the ancestor of the modern dog?
9. Why did primitive man want the dog around his campsite?
10. Do dogs of today perform this same service? How?
11. Before the arrival of Europeans, what different types of dogs existed in America?
12. What was one of the earliest uses of the dog? Does this still occur today?
13. What group of people is credited with the miniaturization of dogs?
14. What group of people first trained the dog to pull sleds?

Writing Prompt: You are in a time machine **hoogáál bee ééhózin** * that crashed lands in ancient times, in a prehistoric* landscape. As you awaken and stagger from your capsule, **ats'a' nídí'otii*** you find a dog-like creature staring at you....! What happens next?"

Vocabulary for "History of the Dog" with the Navajo words added for cultural enrichment. Please find the definition for each word and use it in a sentence.

1. domesticated	hooghangí hólónígíí	page 5
2. myths	nákéé' náháne'	page 6
3. canine	łééchaą́í noolninígíí	page 6
4. scavengers	yaa/nahodidá	page 6
5. adopted	yoosą́ad	page 6
6. prehistorical	ałk'idáą́' dahinánée	page 6
7. receptive	yidiits'a'	page 7
8. evolved	hazlǫ́'	page 7
9. ancestor	azází	page 7
10. descendant	hazází béé hózingo bits'ą́adoo joogáńígíí	page 7
11. members	ahídadéé't'i'ígíí, ahéélchíín	page 7
12. modern	díjǫ́di	page 7
13. domestic	hooghangí hólónígíí	page 7
14. association	bił ahééhojılzin	page 7
15. nomadic	naaná'ooldah, naaná'oo'nééł	page 7
16. carnivores	naaldlooshii atsi' yiyánígíí	page 8
17. depend	ba'jólí	page 8
18. abundant	łą́igo	page 8

19. carrion	dííłdzid	page 8
20. slinking	yaa naa'na'go	page 9
21. gaits	ałhą́asdeest áalgo	page 9
22. derived	yíhooł'ą́ą'	page 9
23. instincts	ı́ł ééhózin bił ho'dichíhígíí	page 9
24. predator	naaldlooshii yildeełígíí	page 9
25. prey	bi'didánígíí	page 9
26. pendant	nahííłá	page 10
27. ferocity	ayóó	page 11
28. gladiator	anááł na'ahínítaahígíí	page 11
29. exhibits	danéł'ı́	page 11
30. History of the Domestic Dog	Hooghangi Łééchaą́ı́ Hólónígíí Baa Hané	

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Dear Parents,

We are currently working on a thematic unit dealing with the RUFF program in attempting to help integrate learning by providing you with discussion topics for home to school transfer.

1. Some people prefer dogs to cats as pets. Why do you think that is?
2. Did dogs live with dinosaurs? Where did they come from?
3. Do dogs inhabit the entire earth?
4. Are bears and dogs related?

Please talk about these issues with your child this week. If you have any questions feel free to ask me.

Sincerely,

Your child's teacher

FOR MORE **R.U.F.F. "MISSIONS"**

CONTACT

SUSAN FADLER
4727 E. VILLA MARIA
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85032

PHONE 602-971-5993

FAX 602-971-5993

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