

- Lesson Title:** **Dogs of the Word**
- Topic:** Geography – Learning countries
- Level:** Any level
- Time Needed:** 1 to 2 hours; can be 2 sessions
- Objective:** Learn the names and locations of countries.
- Motivation:** Uses a high-interest topic to teach an abstract concept.
Hand-on activity.

Materials:

1. Large wall map of Europe or of the world
2. Dog breed books
3. Blank postcards or card stock
4. Markers
5. Tape or tacks

Background:

Geography of foreign locations one has not visited can be very abstract. Abstract concepts are sometimes a weakness for children with Fragile X Syndrome.

Using a concrete, known, high interest topic such as dogs to introduce a more abstract concept can enhance students' learning.

Preparation:

Post the wall map in a visible location. If focusing on a particular continent or region (such as Europe, Asia, etc.), choose dog breeds from that area. Make a list of dog breed choices, and copy for students (see handout for an example).

Activity:

Hand out dog breed lists and/or dog breed books. Each small group or individual chooses a dog. (Use the index or table of contents to locate breeds on the list.) To find the dog's origin, look for the country name in the text, and write it on the postcard.

Draw a picture of the dog on the postcard. Alternatively, locate the breed on internet and cut out a photo, paste on the postcard.

For higher level students: write a sentence about the breed, e.g. "good with children," "needs lots of exercise."

Locate the country of origin on the wall map. Tack or tape the postcard to the country.

Extensions:

Have students look for countries of origin on clothing tags, backpacks, and other items. Write the words for these items on the postcards, and post on the map. Graph each country represented to determine which country produces the most clothing worn in the classroom.

Substitute endangered species for dogs.

For U.S. states: Provide students with a list of national basketball or football teams. Have them locate the team's hometown on a U.S. map, and post the team name on a postcard (in team colors, or using the team logo).

Make charts of dog traits, listing the breeds on one side, and the traits across the top. Make an "x" on the traits each dog has. (For example: long-haired, short-haired, good with children, herding, retrieving...).

Source: Inspired by "It's a Dog's World" lesson, in Imogene Folrte & Marjorie Frank, Basic/Not Boring Social Studies, grades 2-3: Inventive Exercises to Sharpen Skills and Raise Achievement, 1998, Incentive Publications, Inc.: Nashville, Tennessee.

Contact Information:

Carolyn Ybarra
ybarra@stanfordalumni.org

Bibliography:

Barron's Encyclopedia of Dog Breeds. D. Caroline Coile, 1998. Barron's Educational Series, Inc.: Hauppauge, NY.

Dog Breeds of Europe

German Wirehaired Pointer
Norwegian Elkhound
Belgian Sheepdog
Italian Greyhound
Weimaraner
Spinone Italiano
Portuguese Water Dog
Brussels Griffon
Belgian Malinois
Briard
Doberman Pinscher
Basset Hound
Dachshund
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
Rottweiler
St. Bernard



Dog Breeds of Great Britain

English Setter
Golden Retriever
Irish Setter
English Cocker Spaniel
English Springer Spaniel
Irish Water Spaniel
Welsh Springer Spaniel
Beagle
Greyhound
Irish Wolfhound
Airedale Terrier