

A Brief History of Dogs

"Dogs are not our whole life, but they make our lives whole." – Roger Caras



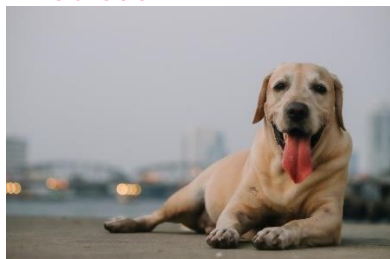
Warm up

- Do you have any pets? What kind?
- What do you think are the benefits of having a pet?
- What responsibilities come with owning a pet?
- Why do you think dogs are often called "man's best friend"?
- How are dogs viewed and treated in your culture?
- Are there specific jobs or tasks that dogs traditionally perform in your culture?



1. How many of the breeds below can you name?

1. Labrador



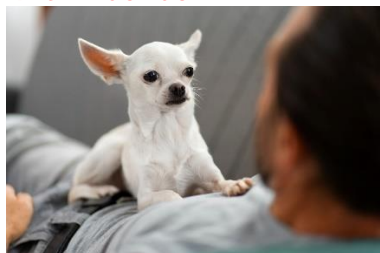
2. Dachshund



3. Husky



4. Chihuahua



5. Doberman



6. French bulldog



7. Beagle



8. German shepherd



9. Border collie





2. In pairs or small groups, read one or two of the stories below and summarise them to your partner who will share a different story with you.

1. The wolf children of India

In the mid-1920s, an extraordinary discovery was made in the dense forests of India, challenging our understanding of human-animal relationships.

Amala and Kamala, two young girls, were reportedly found living with a pack of wolves near Midnapore, Bengal. Their discovery astonished the local reverend who observed them walking on all fours, communicating in howls and growls, and eating raw meat alongside their wolf companions. The girls were believed to have been abandoned and taken in by the wolves at a very young age, leading to their remarkable adaptation to the wild. Efforts to reintegrate them into human society were largely unsuccessful, as they had struggled to adapt to human behaviours and language.



Scientific examinations revealed that Amala and Kamala had developed physical characteristics typical of wild animals, such as heightened senses and increased agility, showcasing their deep integration into the wolf pack.

2. Balto and the serum run to Nome

In 1925, the heroic journey of Balto, a Siberian Husky, became a symbol of courage and determination during a life-saving mission in Alaska.

Nome, Alaska, had faced a deadly diphtheria outbreak, and the only way to deliver life-saving serum was by sled dog due to harsh winter conditions preventing other means of transport. Balto, along with other sled dogs, embarked on a perilous journey through blizzard conditions to transport the serum over 600 miles from Nenana to Nome. Despite temperatures plunging to -50°F (-45°C) and winds gusting at over 60 mph (97 km/h), Balto led the final leg of the journey, ensuring the serum reached Nome in time to save many lives. His courage and endurance made him an instant hero, celebrated not only in Alaska but also across the United States.

During their journey, Balto's team faced extreme exhaustion and frostbite. At one point, Balto's paws had become frozen to the ice, but he persevered, driven by the urgency of the mission and his dedication to his team and the people of Nome.

3. Faithful Hachiko

Hachiko, an Akita dog in Japan, became a symbol of unwavering loyalty and devotion that touched the hearts of people around the world.

Hachiko's loyalty was demonstrated through his daily routine of waiting for his owner, Professor Hidesaburo Ueno, at Shibuya Station in Tokyo. This routine continued for over nine years, even after Ueno's sudden death in 1925. Hachiko's unwavering devotion captured the attention of commuters and station staff, who witnessed his faithful vigil at the exact time Ueno's train was due every day. His story gained widespread attention and admiration, eventually leading to the erection of a bronze statue in his honour at Shibuya Station.



During his daily wait at Shibuya Station, Hachiko had become a familiar and beloved figure among locals, who often brought him food and treats to comfort him during his vigil.

4. Laika, the space dog

Laika, a stray dog from Moscow, made history as the first living creature to orbit the Earth aboard the Soviet spacecraft Sputnik 2 in 1957.

Laika had been selected for the mission as part of the Soviet space program's efforts to understand the effects of space travel on living organisms. She underwent intensive training to prepare for her historic journey, which aimed to test the safety of space travel for humans. Laika's mission captured the world's attention and sparked ethical debates over the use of animals in scientific experiments.



While her journey ended tragically after a few hours due to overheating, Laika's bravery paved the way for future human space exploration missions.

Laika's mission was a testament to the ingenuity and determination of Soviet scientists, who successfully designed and launched a spacecraft capable of carrying a living being into orbit during the early days of space exploration.

- Which story did you find most surprising or inspiring? Why?
- How do you think these stories reflect the special bond between humans and dogs?

Past Perfect

Past Perfect Tense is used to indicate an action that took place and was completed in the past before another action or event also occurred in the past. It is formed with *had* and the *past participle* of the main verb.

Structure:

- Positive: Subject + had + past participle
- Negative: Subject + had not (hadn't) + past participle
- Question: Had + subject + past participle?

Example:

- She had finished her homework before she went to bed. (action completed before another past action)
- They hadn't eaten breakfast when the bus arrived. (negative form)
- Had you seen that movie before last night? (question form)

"Before I moved to this city, I had lived in three different countries."

"By the time I finished high school, I had already visited five different continents."

"I hadn't seen snow until she was 25 years old."



3. Write 3 sentences about yourself in the past perfect.

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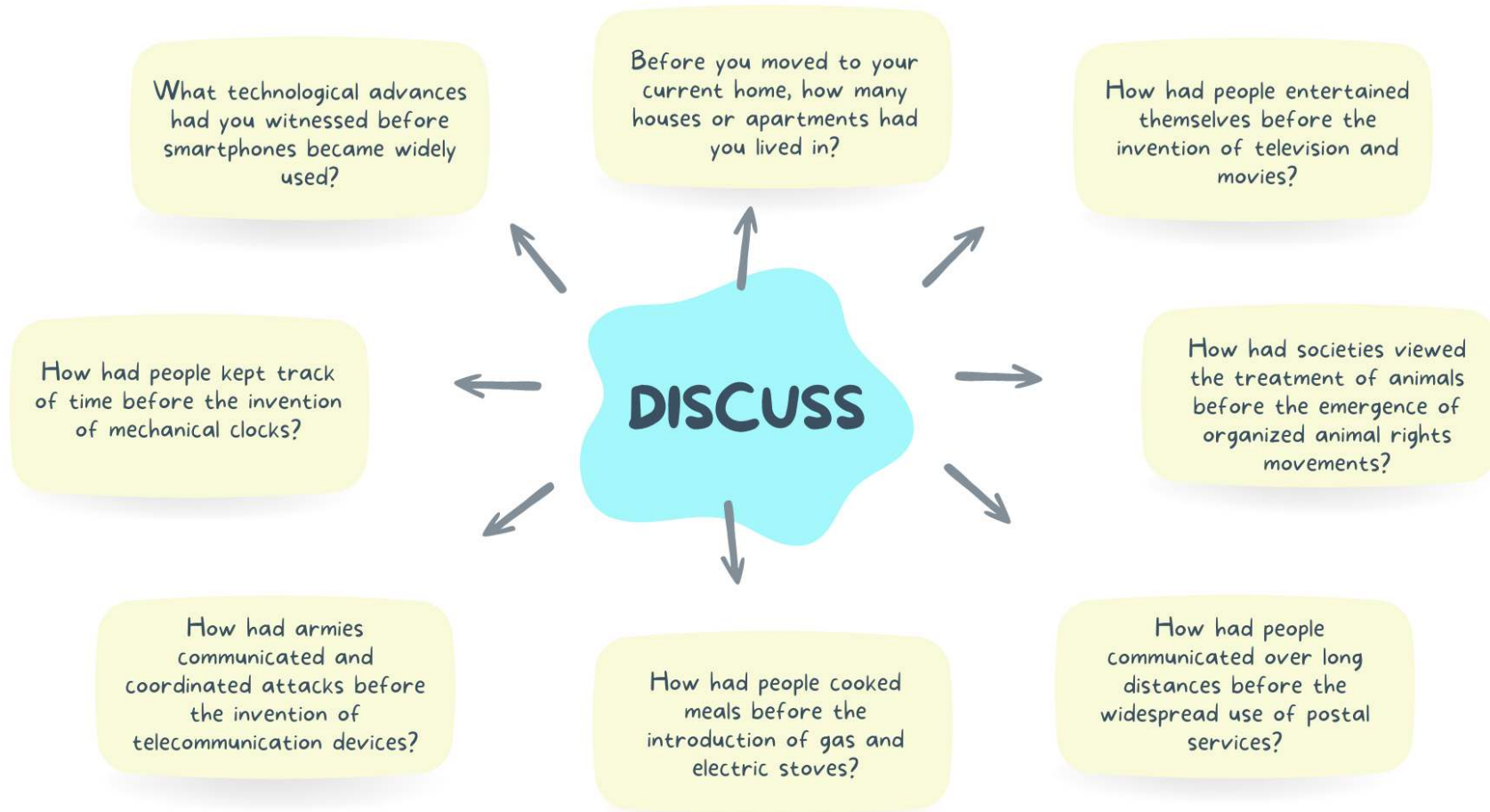
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4. In pairs or small groups, discuss the questions be





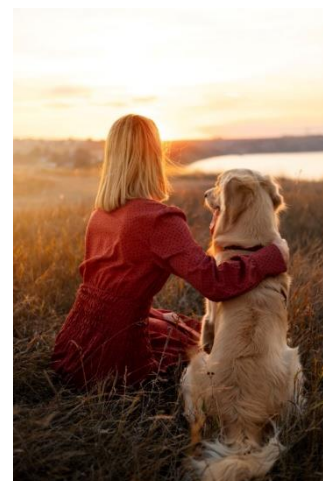
5. Before watching the video on the history of dogs, familiarize yourself with the following vocabulary. Match each word to its definition below.

1. Established - e. Set up or created.
2. Rivals - b. Competitors or enemies.
3. Evolved - d. Changed or developed gradually over time.
4. Ancestors - c. Ancestral or early members of a species.
5. Predators - g. Animals that hunt other animals for food.
6. Territory - h. Area that an animal defends as its own.
7. Docile - f. Non-aggressive and easily managed.
8. Scavengers - a. Animals that feed on dead or decaying matter.



6. Watch the video [A Brief History of Dogs](#)^{f1} and answer the following questions.

1. How long ago did modern humans first establish homes and communities?
2. From which animal did domestic dogs evolve?
3. What was the relationship between wolves and humans when humans first settled in Eurasia?
4. How were the wolves near human camps different from the others?
5. What roles did early domesticated wolves (proto-dogs) play in human societies?
6. When did the earliest proto-dogs or wolf-dogs appear?
7. What did you find most surprising about the relationship between humans and wolves?
8. How do you think the domestication of dogs has impacted human societies?



¹ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8_KWmzLObQ4&ab_channel=TED-Ed