Name: _____

Drafted for Heavy Labor

by Lisa Hart

Lizzie became a common sight on the streets of a town called Sheffield. World War I left England using all the tools at hand—even the elephants!

For a traveling show like a circus

starving.

Horses sent into the service left behind many vacant jobs. This led to some unlikely war recruits. Circus elephants were smart and used to being around people. They could be trained for many of these jobs. Some helped to plow the fields and stack hay. Others hauled supplies around the cities. Lizzie was one such elephant. Fitted with a harness, she pulled loads of metal for the scrap yards. She pulled the

same load as three horses. Lizzie wore a sort of leather shoe to help

bridge.

Elephants served in World War II as well. Germany enlisted the aid of a pair of circus elephants named Kiri and Many. Locals used their strength to help clear the wreckage left by bombing raids.

Unlike for the dogs and horses, no one kept a record of the elephants who served. No one knows how many died while aiding the war effort.

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1. Which of the following best describes the main idea?

    a. Elephants are good workers that should be used more often.

    b. Lizzie was the most important elephant in WWI.

    c. Elephants played a forgotten but important part of WWI and WWII.

    d. People shouldn't use animals to help with war efforts.

2. Reread the following sentences from the article:

____ They were brought to fight on the front lines.

____ They could haul supplies in carts.

____ They could place logs along roads.

____ The number of their war deaths was recorded.

____ They were often retrained circus animals.

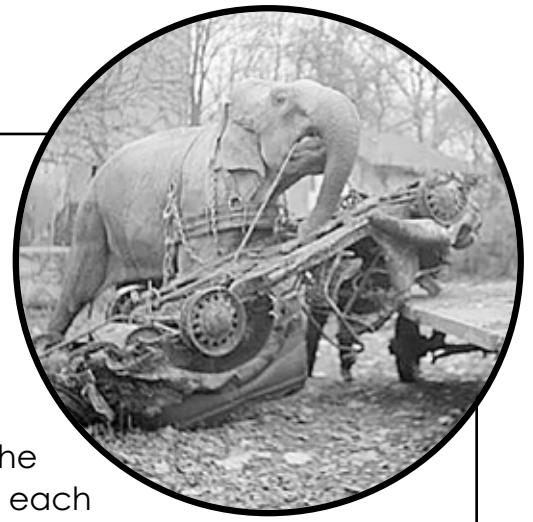4. What are the names of three elephants we know were used during World Wars I and II?

_____

5. What were some advantages of using elephants to aid the war effort? What might have been a disadvantage?

_____

_____

_____

Drafted for Heavy Labor

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. h __ r __ e __ s   _____

   clue: used to control animals and attach them to something

2. __ n c __ m e   _____

   clue: newcomers to a job or task

6. s __ a r __ __ n g   _____

   clue: going very hungry

7. __ __ d   _____

   clue: help

8. __ n __ i __ t e d   _____

   clue: signed up or recruited
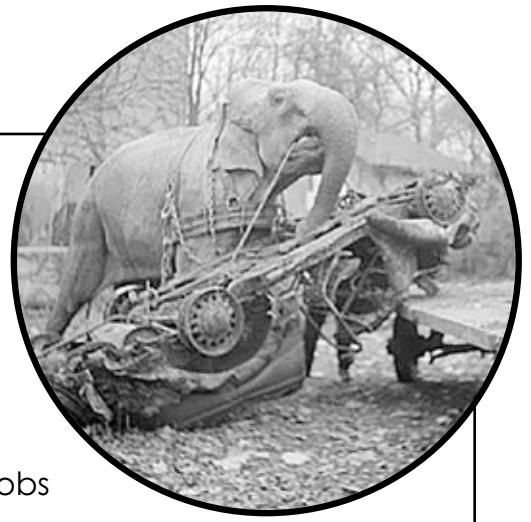
9. __ c r __ p   _____

   clue: unwanted part of something

10. h __ __ l e d   _____

Name: _____

Drafted for Heavy Labor

In the article, "Drafted for Heavy Labor," you read about elephants helping out during World Wars I and II by doing jobs once done by horses.

Using the internet, research another animal that helped people during World War I or II. Describe the animal, one or more job it did, what made it well-suited for that purpose, and how that helped the war effort. On the back of this page, write the address(es) for the website(s) you used for your research.

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

_____

_____

_____

_____

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441246

Drafted for Heavy Labor

by Lisa Hart

1. Which of the following best describes the main idea?

    a. Elephants are good workers that should be used more often.

Preview

Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

5. What were some advantages of using elephants to aid the war effort? What might have been a disadvantage?
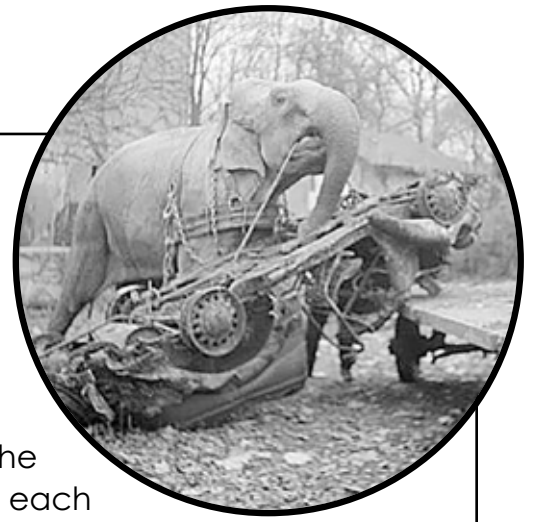
   Answers will vary. Examples of advantages: more strength, intelligence,

   useful trunk, prevented them from starving. Examples of disadvantages:

   required more food than horses, might not have fit in the same spaces.

441246

Drafted for Heavy Labor

Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article. Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. h __a__ r __n__ e __s__ s   **harness** _____

Preview
Please log in to download the printable version of this worksheet.

clue: unwanted part of something

10. h __a__ __u__ l e d   **hauled** _____