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## Tales of Faithful Service

By Lisa Hart

Millions of animals played a role in the First World
War. They gave soldiers comfort, lifted morale, and much
more. They faced much of the same terror as the troops, but we often forget
their faithful service.

When rough ground and mud stopped trucks, mules and horses took



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were onen usea for meir speed and sense of direction.

Homing pigeons are known for being able to find their way home from far away. In the war, they flew between command centers and the soldiers at the front, often through gunfire.

Dogs also filled many roles in wartime. Some carried messages through the trenches and fields. Breeds with a strong sense of smell or hearing made ideal guards and scouts. Mercy dogs brought medical supplies to the wounded, and



Battlefield pigeon hero Cher Ami carried messages to and from the trenches.

stayed until help arrived or the soldier died. Much like the cats on board ships, terriers in the trenches worked to keep rats from stealing food.



Glowworms were gathered in jars by the thousands to use in place of candles. Their bluish-green glow gave enough soft light to read maps, messages, and letters from home. Unlike candles, their glow did not bring the risk of alerting the enemy.

Even slugs formed their own brigade. Able to detect the very first trace of mustard gas long before the soldiers, the slugs squeezed their bodies and held their breath. The



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1. Why were mules and horses needed to carry people and pull wagons?





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3.	What does the author say both dogs and cats did in the war?
4.	Other than alerting the enemy, what is one risk candles could have caused that glowworms likely did not cause?

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.



**1.** \_\_\_\_ morale

a. vehicles used to carry sick or hurt people



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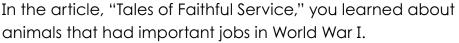
- 5. \_\_\_\_ brigade
- 6. detect
- **7.** mules
- 8. \_\_\_\_ trenches
- **9.** \_\_\_\_ mascots
- **10.** \_\_\_\_ mustard gas

- e. long narrow ditches often used to protect soldiers
- f. a poison gas used in war
- g. animals or objects used to represent a group
- h. to discover or notice something
- i. feelings of loyalty or excitement about a job
- j. a group of soldiers

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Pick an animal not mentioned in the article and write about a job you think it might be good at. Explain what the job would require and why you think the animal might be good at it. Use your imagination!





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**ANSWER KEY** 

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Answers may vary. Most common correct answer will likely

be, "Candles could have caused fires."

#### **ANSWER KEY**

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9. 9. mascots

i. feelings of loyalty or excitement about a job

10. <u>f.</u> mustard gas

j. a group of soldiers