

Grade 6 – Carrier Pigeon

- 1- Discuss the following with your parents :
 - a. Share information about World War 1. Talk about the countries involved in the war and what they were fighting over.
 - b. Think of the war movies you have seen. How do soldiers usually communicate with each other when they are in dangerous places?
 - c. Compare methods of communication then to what is available today.
- 2- Read the text *Carrier Pigeon* on page 2 and 3.
- 3- Pretend you work for a newspaper and you have to write a news article about an animal that has won an award for bravery. Research the internet for a true story or invent one (make sure it is realistic). Look at the instructions on page 4.

Send me your work at melanie.custeau2@csmc.qc.ca .

CARRIER PIGEON

CHER AMI



warm up

Think of the war movies you have seen. How do soldiers usually communicate with each other when they are in dangerous places?

In 1918, at the end of World War I, a group of 194 American soldiers was trapped 40 km behind enemy lines. The Americans had no working radios to call for help. Their only hope was to send a message to American headquarters with a carrier pigeon.

The American soldiers wrote a short note describing exactly where they were trapped.



They placed the message inside a **capsule** and tied it to the pigeon's leg. The pigeon's name was Cher Ami.

Cher Ami flew the 40 km to the American headquarters in just 25 minutes. On the way, he was shot by German soldiers. The brave pigeon did not stop. Although his leg was shattered by the bullet, the message capsule was still dangling from it when he arrived!

The American troops launched a rescue mission immediately. With the information from the message, they found and rescued the 194 men within hours.

That was just one of many messenger flights that Cher Ami made during the war. He was awarded the French "Croix de Guerre with Palm" for his heroic service. He died in 1919 as a result of his battle wounds.

capsule: container

FYI

The "Croix de Guerre with Palm" is a medal given for extreme bravery.

wrap up

1. Write the press release describing a nonhuman that has won an award for bravery.
2. In a group, share stories about pets that have been helpful to their owners. Make a poster of your favourite "pet hero."

WEB CONNECTIONS

Go to the website of the Smithsonian Institute, www.si.edu. Find information about the real Cher Ami and write a memorial about it. Download pictures to go with the words that you have written.

Press Release

1- Find the 5 Ws for your article.

Who What When Where Why / **How** (use how in this context to explain how the animal saved someone)

2- Invent a headline (title) for your article. In your headline, you should identify the main idea of your text, so who and what.

3- Make sure the important facts are mentioned in your first paragraph (the 5 Ws – who, what, when, where, why or how).

4- You should put any extra details in the last paragraphs of your article. Don't forget to mention in the extra details the award that animal won. Include a picture of the animal in the story.

5- After writing your article, do the following checklist:

- 1- In the headline, I say what and who is involved in the story.
- 2- I gave information for the 5 Ws in the first paragraph.
- 3- I spelled words correctly.
- 4- I used correct punctuation.
- 5- I used capitals at the beginning of each sentence and for proper nouns.

Example using *Carrier Pigeon*:

Who: 194 American soldiers

What: were rescued

When: 1918, during World War 1

Where: behind enemy lines

How: a carrier pigeon delivered their location to the American headquarters

Article:

194 American Soldiers Rescued (Headline)

(who) (what)

In 1918, at the end of World War 1, 194 American soldiers were trapped behind enemy lines. A carrier pigeon delivered a message with their location to the American headquarters. Thanks to this information, the soldiers were rescued.

The group of American soldiers was trapped 40 km behind enemy lines with no working radios. They tied a message to a pigeon named Cher Ami. On the way to the American headquarters, Cher Ami was shot by German soldiers. However, the brave pigeon did not stop.

With the information still attached to its wounded leg, the American troops found and rescued the 194 men within hours.

Cher Ami was awarded the French “Croix de Guerre with Palm” for his heroic service.