

How well do you know some key features of a newspaper article? It is incredibly important that we know exactly what we need to include in a newspaper report, so here is an= more in depth task for you to explore. Answer the questions on 'Circus animals to the rescue' and 'The soldier dog'.

Circus animals to the rescue

24 February 1916

AN elephant called Lizzie has become a regular sight on the streets of Sheffield.

With the war raging, the military has bought most of England's horses and sent them to the Western Front. So farmers and other workers are having to find other animals to help them.

Lizzie's job is to cart equipment, machines and scrap metal around Sheffield, a job that used to be done by three horses taken off to war.

Before the war began, Lizzie used to perform tricks as part of a travelling circus. She is said to be quite a character, with a story going round about her putting her trunk into somebody's window and stealing their dinner.

Elephants from another circus are also filling in for missing horses by ploughing fields and transporting hay in Surrey.

Hundreds of thousands of horses and mules are being used by Britain in the war. Most of our heavy horses have already gone to the front, with many being killed or injured. The Blue Cross charity is raising funds for their treatment.



A horse is landed from a British military transport ship at Boulogne, France
Elephants from Sangar's Circus are being used to plough fields in Horley, Surrey

3 August 1918

The soldier dog

A STRAY dog has become a soldier and looks set to be remembered as one of the heroes of the war when it is over.

The bull terrier cross wandered through an American army training session at Yale Field in Connecticut. One soldier, Corporal Robert Conroy, took a shine to the dog and named him Stubby, because of his short and stubby tail.

Conroy smuggled the dog onto his ship bound for France. Stubby was allowed to stay, even though animals are forbidden, because he learned a kind of dog salute, putting his right paw on his right eyebrow.

On 5 February 1918, Stubby reached the front line as part of the 102nd Infantry. He was an official mascot because he helped to keep up the spirits of the troops.

Stubby has already survived a number of injuries from shrapnel and gas attacks. He has become so well-known and admired that he has been treated in Red Cross hospitals alongside human soldiers.

Having survived gas attacks, Stubby has become very sensitive to the smell of gas and, with his sensitive dog nose, is able to detect gas much earlier than his human comrades and can alert them to danger in time. His sensitive hearing also means he is often the first to hear the advancing enemy and can alert his comrades.

A report has reached First News that, two nights ago, Stubby heard a German spy who tried to sneak into Conroy's camp during the dead of night. Stubby grabbed the intruder's leg and held him until Conroy and other troops came to capture the German.

Stubby has also been useful as a 'mercy' dog, scanning the battlefields for injured soldiers and bringing doctors to the wounded.

When Stubby returns home at the end of the war, he will probably get more medals than any

1. A **lead** is the opening paragraph of a newspaper article or report that summarises the key events of the article. Highlight, draw a circle around, or write down the **lead** of 'Circus animals to the rescue'.

2. How many of the **5 Ws** (facts) can you find in 'The soldier dog' lead?

Who?

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

3. 'Regular' is the adjective which gives us more information in the **lead** of 'Circus animals to the rescue'. It helps us understand that Lizzie the elephant was often seen in Sheffield. Can you add at least one more interesting and informative adjective to this sentence? (Use arrows and write your adjectives above or below the sentence.)

4. List 3 different **sentence openers** from each article:

'Circus animals to the rescue'

'The soldier dog'

e.g. An elephant called Lizzie has become a regular sight on the streets of Sheffield

5. Can you rewrite the **headline** for either 'Circus animals to the rescue' or 'The soldier dog'? If you can, try to use alliteration or a pun?