

Lesson Plan Title: **Famous Sled Dogs**

**Developed by:**

Kim Slade

**Discipline / Subject:**

Reading

**Topic:**

Balto and Togo

**Grade Level:**

3 - 5

**Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:**

- *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel
- *Togo* by Robert J. Blake
- Balto/Togo Comparison & Contrast activity sheet
- Iditarod Math: Balto & Togo activity sheet

**Lesson Summary:**

Students will compare and contrast two sled dogs, Balto and Togo, using literature and mathematics.

**Standard's Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

1. The student uses the reading process effectively.
2. The student constructs meaning from a wide range of texts.
3. The student understands the common features of a variety of literary forms – knows the similarities and differences among the characters, settings, and events presented in various texts.
4. The student understands the effects of operations in numbers and the relationships among these operations, selects appropriate operations, and computes for problem solving.

**Learning objectives:**

Students will:

- Compare and contrast characters, settings, and events
- Examine and break information into parts
- Make inferences
- Design and solve mathematical problems

**Assessment:**

Completion and accuracy of activity sheets

**Procedural Activities**

1. Students read *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel and *Togo* by Robert J. Blake – read on different days
2. Discuss each story
3. Students complete the Balto/Togo Comparison & Contrast activity sheet
4. Discuss the map in the front and the Epilogue in the back of *Togo*
5. Students complete Iditarod Math: Balto & Togo activity sheet

**Materials Students Need:**

Each student will need:

- Copy of Balto/Togo Comparison & Contrast activity sheet
- Copy of Iditarod Math: Balto & Togo activity sheet
- A copy of *Balto and the Great Race* by Elizabeth Cody Kimmel \*
- A copy of *Togo* by Robert J. Blake \*

\* If it is not possible to have a copy per student, then the teacher could use one copy each and use as read aloud

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning:**

Information and stories about Balto:

- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/sleddogs/balto.html>
- [http://www.harperchildrens.com/books/fchap/f99/0064421066\\_ex.htm](http://www.harperchildrens.com/books/fchap/f99/0064421066_ex.htm)
- <http://www2.grand-forks.k12.nd.us/Iditarod/baltofoldermenu.html>

**Other Information**

Compare and contrast the cartoon movie “Balto” with the true story of Balto

**Modifications for special learners/ Enrichment Opportunities****Enrichment:**

To learn more about Balto & Togo, and about the Serum Run of 1925, students can read the reproduction of the historic Nome newspaper - *The Nome Nugget: Alaska's Oldest Newspaper-1925 Edition* – an 8 page newspaper written on a child’s level – copies of this can be purchased from:

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**Modifications:**

Students who read at a lower third grade level could read *The Bravest Dog Ever: The True Story of Balto* by Natalie Standiford, and then the teacher could read Robert J. Blake’s *Togo*.