

## **Bob the Railway Dog, Class Activity Pack**

This activity pack has been designed for students to use before they visit the National Railway Museum, in order to learn more about Bob the Railway Dog.

There are four activities in this pack:

1. *Who was Bob the Railway Dog: Here students will record questions they would like to have answered. The activities that follow may answer these questions, if not they can ask when they come into the Museum.*
2. *Bob the Railway Dog in the news: Here students will read newspaper article excerpts dating from the 19<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> century, they will learn about the Bob the Railway Dog story.*
3. *Newspaper Articles, General Questions: Here students will answer comprehension questions relating to the newspaper article excerpts.*
4. *Primary and Secondary Resources: Here students will evaluate primary and secondary resources and consider the reliability of secondary resources.*

Curriculum:

ACHASSI126 Examine primary sources and secondary sources to determine their origin and purpose

Recommended age groups:

Year 6

**Who was Bob the Railway Dog?**

Bob was a shaggy dog with eyes that you will find it hard to turn away from. He likes his freedom and has no master. He follows his passion and never gives up. He is a friend of all drivers.

*Take a few minutes to write some questions you want to know about the railway dog:*

1.

2.

3.

4.

*Once you complete the following activities, come back to this page and see if you can answer your questions. If not you can ask them when you come to the Museum.*

Sample answers:

*Take a few minutes and write some questions you want to know about the railway dog:*

- Where did the railway dog come from? Who raised him?
- Why he was so special?
- How did he die?

## Bob the Railway Dog in the News

The following five excerpts from newspaper articles will help you to answer your questions about the Bob the Railway Dog.

- Read the following five excerpts. It is a good idea to underline the main events in every newspaper article; this can lead you to a better understanding of Bob the Railway Dog.
- Arrange the following excerpts in an order which tells a story about Bob the Railway Dog; either by cutting out the excerpts and arranging them, or by numbering them in the margin.  
*Please note that there is more than one way to correctly order the articles.*

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The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 August 1895

BOB," THE RAILWAY DOG.

It was Bob's custom when in the city to go to Mr. Evans's butcher's shop in Hindley Street for his meals. On Monday he was given his afternoon tea by Mr. E. J. Preston, an employee of Mr. Evans. Shortly afterwards he was heard to bark at a passing dog, and then with a pitiful howl dropped down dead. The cause of his death has not yet been ascertained. The body of the dog was claimed by Mr. L. M. Tier, of Hindley Street, and Mr. Nathan, in compliance with a promise made some months ago, is now stuffing it.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/34518112?searchTerm=bob%20the%20railway%20dog&searchLimits=>

Recorder (Port Pirie, Sa:1919-1954) Saturday 10 February 1934

Quiet Corner : BOB THE RAILWAY DOG

Mr William Seth Ferry... told me the following: -

In September, 1884, a party of unemployed men was sent from Adelaide to Carrieton to trap and kill rabbits. A requisition was sent to the city for as many dogs as could be picked up in the streets, and a truckload of Homeless Hectors was dispatched north. Among them was a decent-looking sort, apparently a cross between a French poodle and a German collie.

For years bob never missed a train on which I worked. Then he was stolen and taken around the gulf out he landed back in Port Adelaide on a ketch and resumed service. Then he had a trip to England and back they wouldn't let him land over there.

His Fancy spot was on the tender of the engine. In those days' notices of special trains to follow were thrown by the guard to isolated permanent way gangs. Bob got to know all the gangs, and would begin to bark his greeting before they were sighted round bends. He could carry a written message a long a moving train from van to engine and return with a reply.

Everyone in the service loved the old fellow, and when in 1889 I withdrew to go to the West they hide him at Alberton so they could retrain him in the service. I went away without him, and when I was safely gone he was given the run of the lines again.

Bob was a real railway dog. He lived for trains, and earned fame enjoyed by few dogs.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/95795519?searchTerm=bob%20the%20railway%20dog&searchLimits=>

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National Geographic , Cassie Crofts, 2016

Australia's Railway Dog

By the time Ferry was promoted to stationmaster in WA in 1889, seven-year-old Bob had already graduated to jumping trains alone. Ferry took the job and left the intrepid Bob behind.

His breed has never been determined, though German Coolie, Smithfield and Bearded Collie have all been suggested.

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com.au/australia/australias-railway-dog.aspx>

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The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 August 1895

BOB," THE RAILWAY DOG.

[Bob] was present at the banquet given at the opening of the line from Petersburg to Broken Hill, and also at the opening of the Hawkesbury-bridge in New South Wales. He was mentioned in the papers, as being among the distinguished guests at the opening of the Melbourne Exhibition of 1881. Only once during his many travels has the dog been known to fall off the train. This was while travelling between Manoora and Saddleworth on an express train. He managed to limp to the latter station, a distance of two miles, and was cared for by some of his railway friends. His leg, which was injured, was bandaged by Station-master Henderson, who is now traffic manager on the South eastern line.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/34518112?searchTerm=bob%20the%20railway%20dog&searchLimits=>

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South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895)Saturday 24 August 1895

BOB, THE RAILWAY DOG.

Mr. Henry Hollamby, of Macclesfield, writes: — As there seems to be a considerable amount of doubt and curiosity concerning the breed of 'Bob, the railway dog, I take the liberty of writing to you to say that he was bred by me, that I owned his mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. He, when a puppy, was given to Mr. James Mott, who then kept the Macclesfield Hotel. Bob's father was a German collie dog. At the time the railway was being made to Strathalbyn he followed some of the navvies to the line and was called 'Navy'. Mr. Mott brought him back from the line two or three times, till at last he lost him. At that time he was about nine months old

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/91463642?searchTerm=bob%20the%20railway%20dog&searchLimits=>

Bob the Railway Dog in the news. Sample answers:

Recommended arrangement options for the newspaper pieces:

- The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 August 1895: 5
- Recorder (Port Pirie, Sa:1919-1954) Saturday 10 February 1934: 2, 3 or 4
- The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1931), Friday 2 August 1895: 2,3 or 4
- National Geographic , Cassie Crofts, 2016: 2, 3 or 4
- South Australian Chronicle (Adelaide, SA : 1889 - 1895)Saturday 24 August 1895: 1



**Newspaper Article, BTRD, General Questions. Sample Answers:**

1. *What did Mr. Henry Hollamby say about the breed of Bob the railway dog?*

Mr Hollamby said that Bob's father was a German collie dog.

2. *Who was the first owner of the railway dog?*

When Bob was a puppy Mr. Henry Hollamby gave him to Mr. James Mott, who then kept the Macclesfield Hotel.

3. *How did Mr. Ferry meet Bob and how were they separated?*

Bob was caught with about 50 other stray dogs and sent from Adelaide to Carrieton, where they were destined to become rabbit hunters. The train from Adelaide to Carrieton stopped at Terowie, where Mr. Ferry first saw Bob. It is said that Mr. Ferry exchanged Bob with another dog.

In 1889 when Mr. Ferry get promoted to a station master he had to move to Western Australia, he said that the railway men hid Bob at Alberton so they could retain him in the South Australian Railway. Mr. Ferry went away without him, and when he was safely gone he was given the run of the lines again.

4. *When did Bob the railway dog first show an interest in the railway?*

Mr Hollamby states that Bob followed men to the line at Strathalbyn as a puppy. Bob's was then called "Navy", a navy is a person who excavates and constructs railways.

5. *How did Bob the railway dog die?*

Bob went to Mr. Evans's butcher's shop in Hindley-street for his meals. He was heard to bark at a passing dog, and then with a pitiful howl dropped down dead.



Primary and Secondary Resources, Sample answers:

1. *Are newspapers primary resource or secondary resource? Give an example of a primary and secondary resource.*

Newspaper is a secondary resource. A primary resource can be an artefact, a document, diary, manuscript, autobiography, a recording, etc. A secondary resource can be articles in newspapers or popular magazines, book or movie reviews, or articles found in scholarly journals that discuss or evaluate someone else's original research.

2. *What is the difference between the two kinds of resources?*

A primary source provides direct or firsthand evidence about an event, object, person, or work of art. Secondary sources describe, discuss, interpret, comment upon, analyse, evaluate, summarize, and process primary sources.

3. *Are newspaper articles reliable? Do you find any differing information if yes write it down?*

**Reliability:** Newspaper articles may not be reliable. For example some of the newspaper articles about Bob were written years after he had died. The second reason is that sometimes newspaper articles are based on memories or opinions of the author or people being interviewed, which can result in a biased view.

**Differing information:** You may have noticed that there is uncertainty over Bob's breed. In the National Geographic article it was stated that Bob may have been a Coolie, Smithfield or Sheepdog. In another two articles it was stated that Bob may have been a French Poodle crossed with a Coolie, or a Coolie.

Also the way in which the National Geographic article is written it sounds as though Bob's owner Seth Ferry left Bob in South Australia; whereas in Ferry's article he states Bob was held at Alberton Station and he was forced to move to WA without him.