

Answer Key

DOG HEROES OF ALASKA

The Story of Togo

Name _____

Date _____

Togo was a skinny Siberian Husky pup that musher Leonhard Seppala tried to sell twice. He did not think the scrawny dog had the potential to make it on a competitive dogsled team. Both times, the clever Togo escaped and returned to Seppala's kennels.

When Togo was eight months old, he freed himself to chase after his owner's dogsled team and easily caught up with them. Seppala had to keep Togo with him to make sure he didn't get into any other mischief and, much to Seppala's surprise, Togo proved himself by the end of that day. He was on the team.

Years of being Seppala's lead dog prepped Togo for the challenges of the Great Race of Mercy.

What Do You Think?

Describe how you would honor Togo. Sketch a design for a statue, write a newspaper article, or create something else of your choice.

Responses will vary.

Research It!

Both Balto and Togo's bodies were preserved and are available for the public to see. Do some research and find out where you can see these heroic dogs.

Answers will vary, but should include information about Togo's body being on display at the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Headquarters museum in Wasilla, Alaska.
Togo's skeleton is at The Peabody Museum of Natural History at Yale University.
Balto's body is on exhibit at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History in Ohio. His body has also been shown at the Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center in Alaska.

Answer Key

DOG HEROES OF ALASKA

The Story of Balto

Name _____

Date _____



Balto was the lead dog in the last leg of the Great Race of Mercy – the relay to deliver serum to the isolated town of Nome, Alaska. For his dogsled team’s success, he received heaps of praise and gratitude. A statue of Balto was erected in New York City’s Central Park in 1925.

Balto in Central Park

Balto in Central Park

The statue of Balto includes the following engraving. Replace each underlined word with one from the word bank – without changing the meaning of the passage. Write the new word directly above the existing one.

Dedicated to the indomitable spirit of the sled dogs that relayed serum antitoxin six hundred miles over rough ice, across treacherous waters, through arctic blizzards, from Nenana to the relief of afflicted stricken Nome in the winter of 1925.
Endurance ... Fidelity ... Intelligence.

Word Bank

afflicted
North Pole
loyalty
unstoppable
stamina
serum
dangerous

Describe how the dogs of the relay demonstrated intelligence.

Answers will vary, but may include details about Togo leading the team across Norton Sound in treacherous conditions with low visibility, and Balto leading the team through an 80 mph blizzard on the second leg of the journey.

Can you think of another word you would use to describe the heroic dogs of the relay?

Answers will vary but may include words like valiant, courageous, intrepid, and brave.