



Lesson Plan Summary

Magic Tree House #54: Balto of the Blue Dawn

A *Magic Tree House* **TIMES** newspaper template for group writing projects

<p style="text-align: center;">EACH STUDENT WILL:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the story of Balto and Kaasen • Discuss the story and illustrations to share ideas for newspaper articles • Examine text features of various newspapers and use the text features of a newspaper to organize various writing pieces • Take on different roles of people working at a newspaper • Role play questioning techniques for informative writing pieces using the 5 W's • Include vocabulary for crossword puzzle in your discussions • Work collaboratively in pairs or small groups 	<p style="text-align: center;">COMMON CORE STANDARDS ADDRESSED:</p> <p>(The standard for one grade level is explained. The codes for applicable grade levels are listed.)</p> <p>READING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS (RI 2.3, RI 3.3, RI 4.3, RI 5.3) Describe the relationship between a series of historical events using language that pertains to time, sequence, and cause/effect. (RI 3.3) • INTEGRATION OF KNOWLEDGE AND IDEAS: (RI 2.7, RI 3.7, RI 4.7, RI 5.7) Use information gained from Illustrations and the words in a text to demonstrate an understanding of the text (e.g., where, when why, and how key events occur. (RI 3.7) <p>WRITING:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEXT TYPES and PURPOSES: (W2.2, W3.2, W4.2, W5.2) Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas and information clearly (WI 3.2) • RESEARCH TO BUILD AND PRESENT KNOWLEDGE (W2.7, W3.7, W4.7, W5.7) Conduct a short research project that builds knowledge about a topic. (W3.7)
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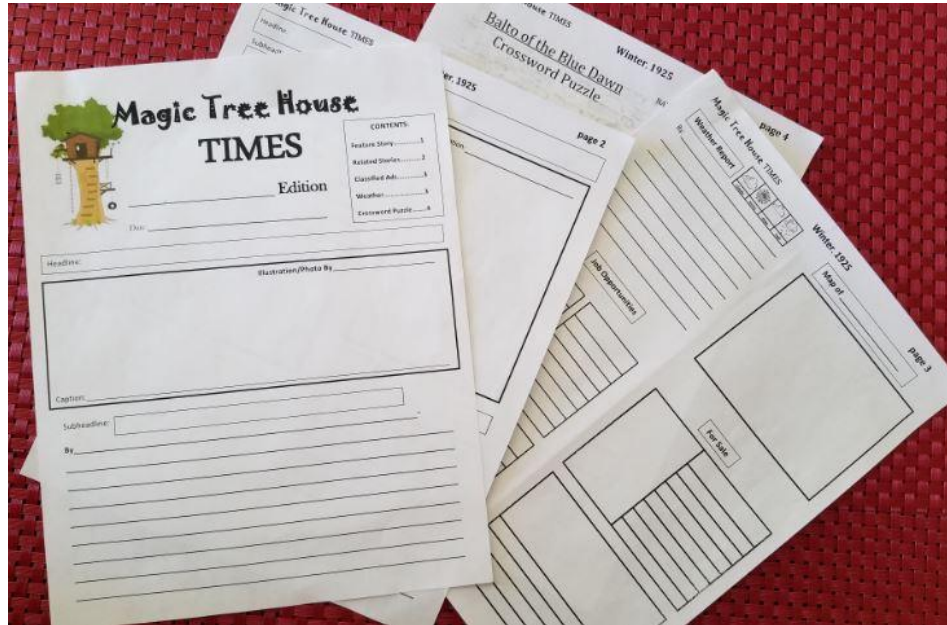
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Created by:
Paula Cirillo, 2009 Magic Tree House Educator of the Year, Peach Hill Academy, Moorpark, California



Lesson Plan Magic Tree House #54: Balto of the Blue Dawn

Extra! Extra! Read All About It!



BREAKING NEWS

*Gunnar Kaasen and his lead dog Balto reach Nome, Alaska to deliver medicine to an ailing group of people!
Read this newspaper to find out more information and related stories.*

Your students can use the **Magic Tree House TIMES** newspaper template to share the story of Balto and other related stories from this historical event during the winter of 1925. The students can write informational, narrative, and persuasive pieces. You can assign pairs or small groups to work together to create their own newspapers.

54-1LP0516

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MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Newspaper template in the appendix
- Copy(s) of Balto of the Blue Dawn
- Fact Tracker Dogsledding and other Extreme Sports to use as a secondary resource
- Copies of various local newspapers

PROCEDURE:

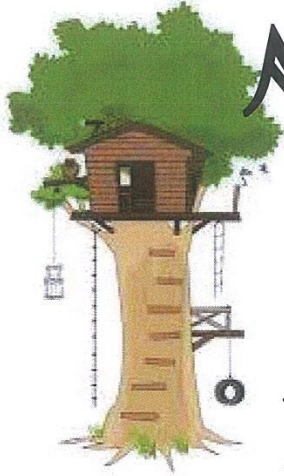
1. Inform the students that they will publish a newspaper highlighting this wonderful event from the winter of 1925 about Gunnar Kaasen and his dog Balto. It will be the NOME, ALASKA Edition from the point of view of the reporters and photographers who were waiting outside the hospital when the life-saving medicine was delivered (chapter 9).
2. The students can share the assignments of editor, illustrator, photographer, meteorologist, and journalists working in small groups, or in pairs.
3. Every chapter in this book has detailed illustrations which lend to rich discussions, enough to fill an entire newspaper! In addition to discussing the main event, open up the discussion to the effect the weather had on the lifestyles of the people. What job opportunities might people have in such a remote area of the world? What kind of items would you find for sale in the newspaper? Let them further plan in their small groups to create their own newspaper!

THIS NEWSPAPER TEMPLATE CAN BE USED WITH ANY MAGIC TREE HOUSE BOOK IN THE SERIES.

APPENDIX

- A Teacher Guide:
 - ✓ Sample completed newspaper to share with students before they begin the project
 - ✓ Answer key for crossword puzzle included
 - ✓ Suggestions for Newspaper Articles included

- The *Magic Tree House Times* newspaper template



Magic Tree House TIMES

Nome, Alaska Edition

Date: Winter, 1925

CONTENTS:

Feature Story.....1

Related Stories.....2

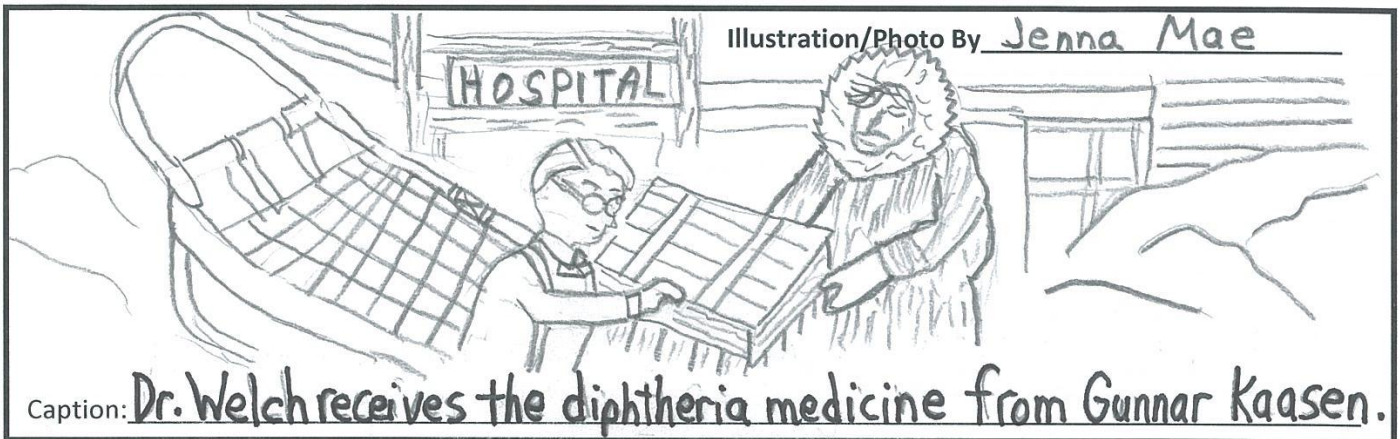
Classified Ads.....3

Weather.....3

Crossword Puzzle.....4

Headline:

The Race Against Time is Won!



Illustration/Photo By Jenna Mae

Caption: Dr. Welch receives the diphtheria medicine from Gunnar Kaasen.

Subheadline:

A Champion Team Pulls into Nome

By Journalist: Sammy C.

The crowd outside the Nome Hospital clapped and cheered when they saw a beautiful black husky named Balto. This dog pulled Alaskan musher Gunnar Kaasen and delivered the life-saving serum to the hospital. The people in the town were quarantined in their homes and hospital. There were some children who were just hours from dying of diphtheria.

Headline: Meet the Heroes of The Great Race

Subheadline:

Mayor Maynard Thanks the Teams

By: Reporter - Hailey Davis

The trail from Anchorage to Nome was a team effort of many courageous Alaskan mushers and their skilled dogs. Kaasen and Balto were the last team in the relay.

Caption: Gunnar Kaasen and Balto



Subheadline:

Leonhard Seppala and Togo

By: Reporter - Jackie Hill

Leonhard Seppala, Balto's owner, has another skilled sled dog named Togo. They ran with the serum on an earlier part of the relay, carrying it farther than any of the other teams.

Caption: Gifts from a Frozen World



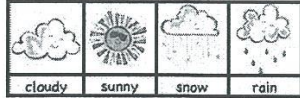
Subheadline:

Thank You, Creatures!

By: Reporter - Joseph Brooks

I met a true Native American, an Alaskan named Ed Rohn. He is the owner of the Port Safety Roadhouse. I was humbled by his respect of nature and the reminder that "All becomes one" in Alaska. Refer to my diagram to pay respect to the creatures of the wild and what they contribute.

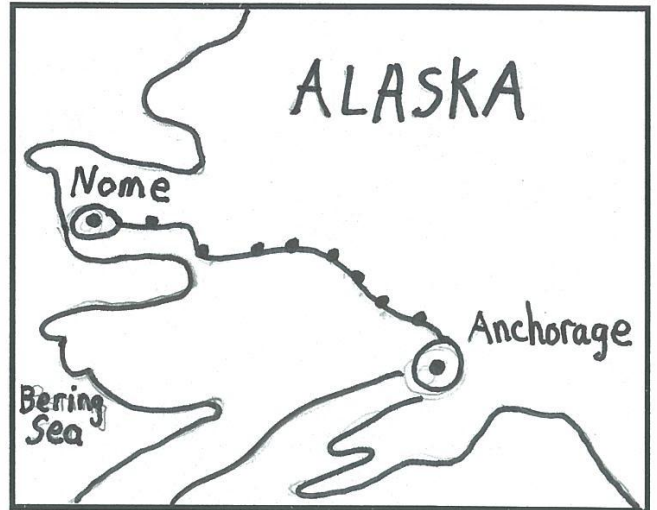
Weather Report



By: Meteorologist - Susie K.

Cloudy and snowy in Northwest Alaska. Blizzard coming in from the Arctic. Keep animals indoors. Temperatures falling to 40° below 0. Snow drifts and icy winds.

Map of Great Serum Race



Job Opportunities

MUSHER
 ~ Must have endurance and knowledge of dog commands. Contact Ed at Port Safety for more info.

SLED DOG TRAINERS
 ~ Live at road house in Anchorage until dogs are trained. Rent-free!

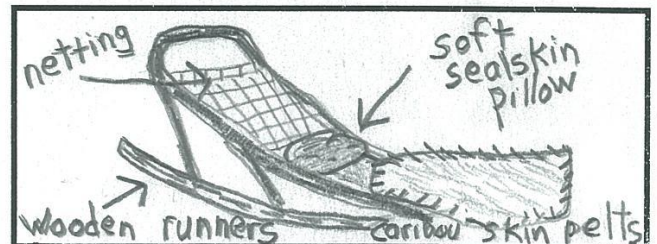
NURSES
 ~ Needed to work with children at Nome Hospital. Must comfort children and assist doctors.

SNOW PLOWER
 ~ Must own your own snow plower. Paid to plow mail route from Nome to Port Safety.

For Sale



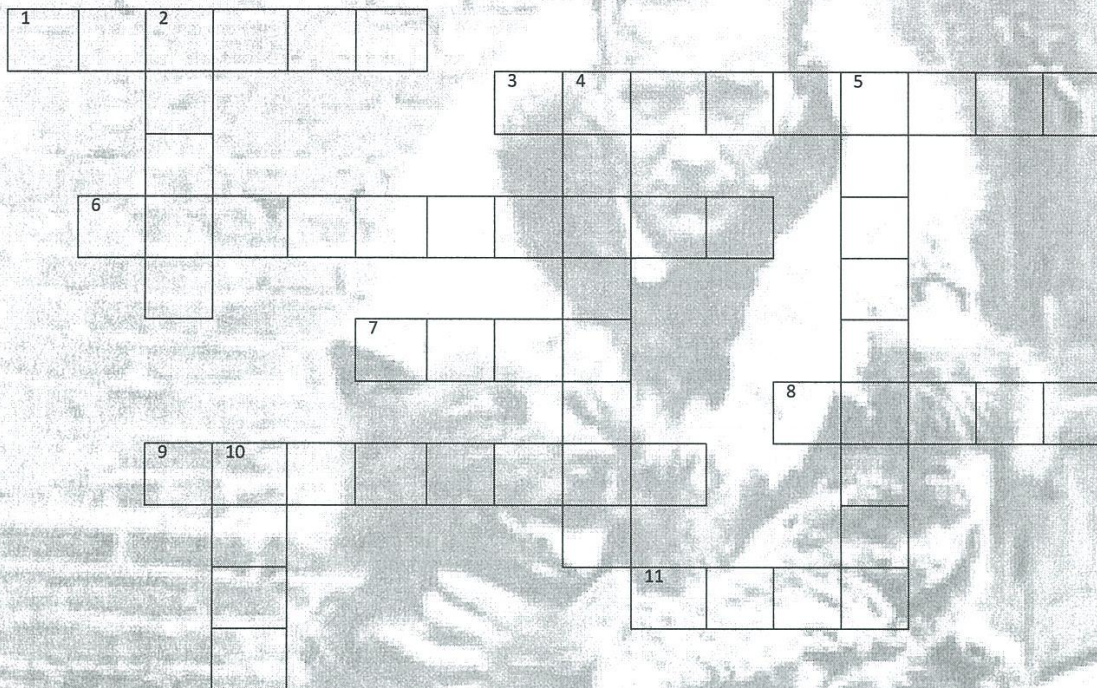
Siberian Husky Pups
 Puppies of a champion sled dog racer ready for a loving owner. Two left. Must be sold as a pair. Start your team!



BUILD YOUR OWN SLED
 Sled kits with step by step easy directions. All pieces included. Save money!

Balto of the Blue Dawn Crossword Puzzle

NAME: _____



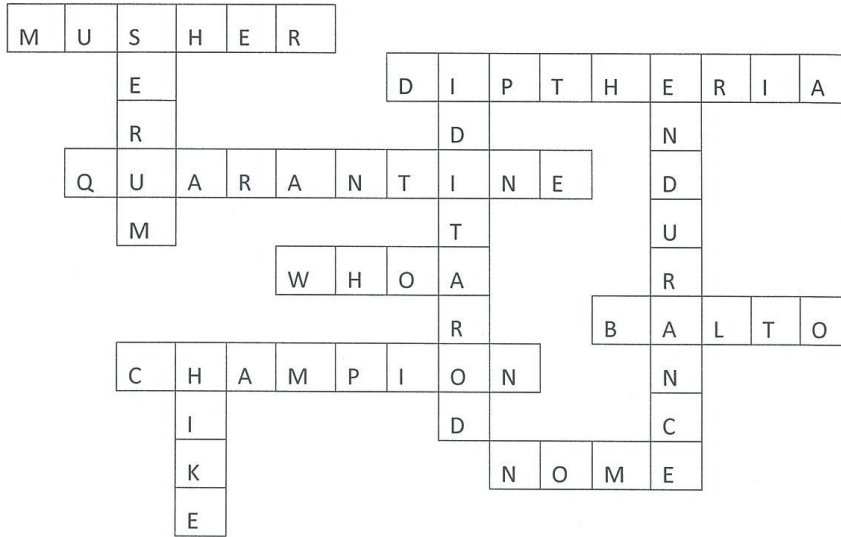
- ACROSS**
1. A person who drives a sled pulled by a team of dogs
 3. A deadly disease
 6. To be kept away from other people, so you don't spread a disease
 7. A command given to a sled dog to "stop"
 8. The lead husky hero in Gunnar Kaasen's famous dog sled team
 9. A winner
 11. A remote Alaskan town on the Bering Sea

- DOWN**
2. A liquid medicine
 4. A yearly dogsledding race in Alaska from Anchorage to Nome
 5. The power to get through hardship and pain that lasts for a long time
 10. A command given to a sled dog to "get going"

Balto of the Blue Dawn

NAME: _____

Answer Key



SUGGESTIONS FOR NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

Use the journalist's 5 W's (who, what, where, when, and why) to write articles for the newspaper.

HEADLINE and SUBHEADLINES

- The Race Against Time is Won
- The People of Nome, Alaska are Saved
- Where is Nome, Alaska?
- Alaskans – Respectful of Nature
- Endurance Through a Blizzard
- Meet the Heroes of the Great Serum Race
- Dogsledding It All Began on the Ice Bridge
- Gunnar Kaasen and His Dog, Balto
- A Relay of Dogsleds to the Rescue
- Mayor Maynard Congratulates All Musherers and Their Dogs
- Dr. Welch Thanks Gunnar Kaasen for His Bravery
- Life of a Musher
- Dogs Leading the Sleds
- Gifts From a Frozen World
- Helpful Hints for Driving a Dogsled
- What is Diphtheria?
- Port Safety – A Safe-Haven for Musherers
- Let's Meet the Heroes of Alaska

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____



Magic Tree House

TIMES

_____ Edition

Date: _____

CONTENTS:

Feature Story.....	1
Related Stories.....	2
Classified Ads.....	3
Weather.....	3
Crossword Puzzle.....	4

Headline: _____

Illustration/Photo By _____

Caption: _____

Subheadline:

By _____

Headline:

Subheadline:

By: _____

Caption: _____

Subheadline:

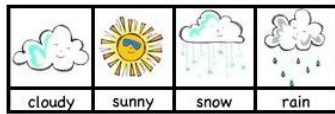
By: _____

Caption: _____

Subheadline:

By: _____

Weather Report



By: _____

Job Opportunities

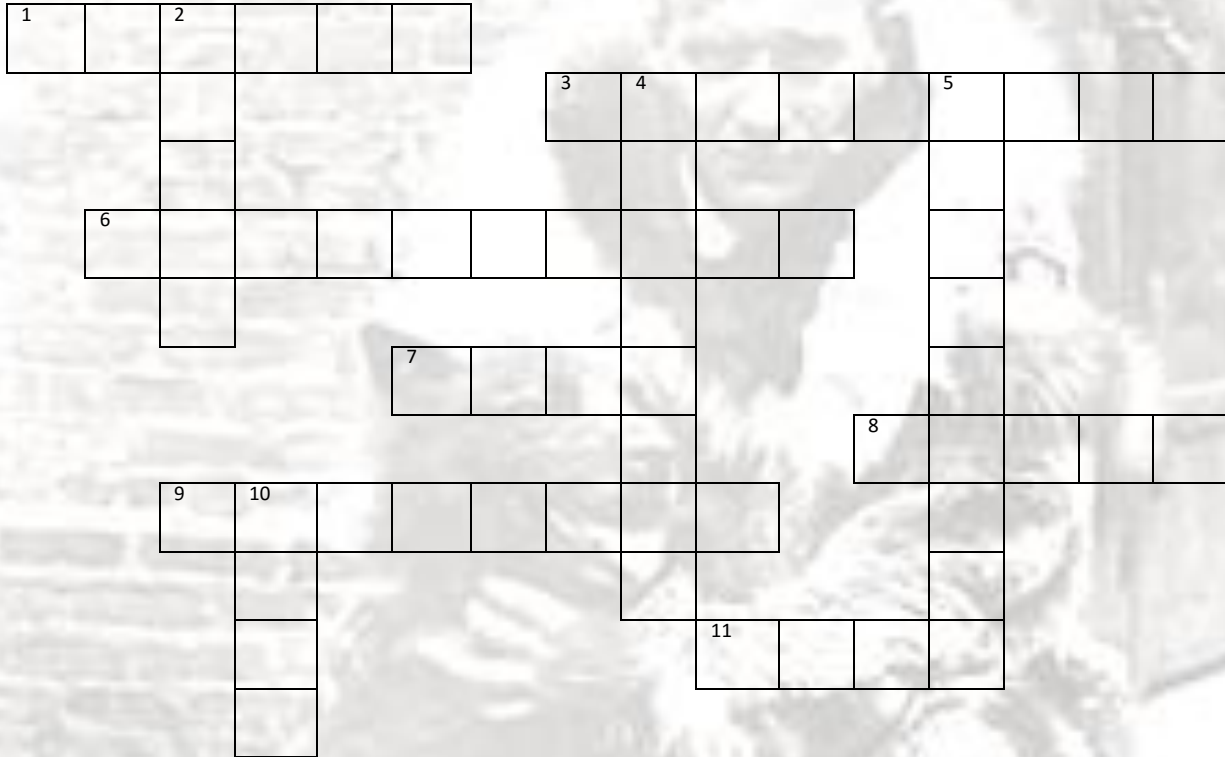
Date _____

Map of _____

For Sale

Balto of the Blue Dawn Crossword Puzzle

NAME: _____



ACROSS

- 1. A person who drives a sled pulled by a team of dogs
- 3. A deadly disease
- 6. To be kept away from other people, so you don't spread a disease
- 7. A command given to a sled dog to "stop"
- 8. The lead husky hero in Gunnar Kaasen's famous dog sled team
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DOWN

- 2. A liquid medicine
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- 5. The power to get through hardship and pain that lasts for a long time
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