

INTRODUCTION ★★★

Animals have fought side by side with soldiers since ancient times. You've probably heard about brave warhorses and heroic dogs, but some of the other animals in this book will surprise you!

From the tiny glowworm to the mighty elephant, animals have captured the enemy, kept soldiers safe, and been loyal friends in desperate, dangerous moments.

Discover dolphins who search for hidden mines under the sea, pigeons who were soldiers' only form of communication behind enemy lines, honeybees who seek out explosives with their antennae, and even monkeys who protect birds and airplanes from high in the treetops of China.

Whether by land, by air, or by sea, these incredible military animals will amaze you with their courage and their loyalty. Throughout history, they have been some of our bravest soldiers in times of war and our friends in times of peace.



MULES

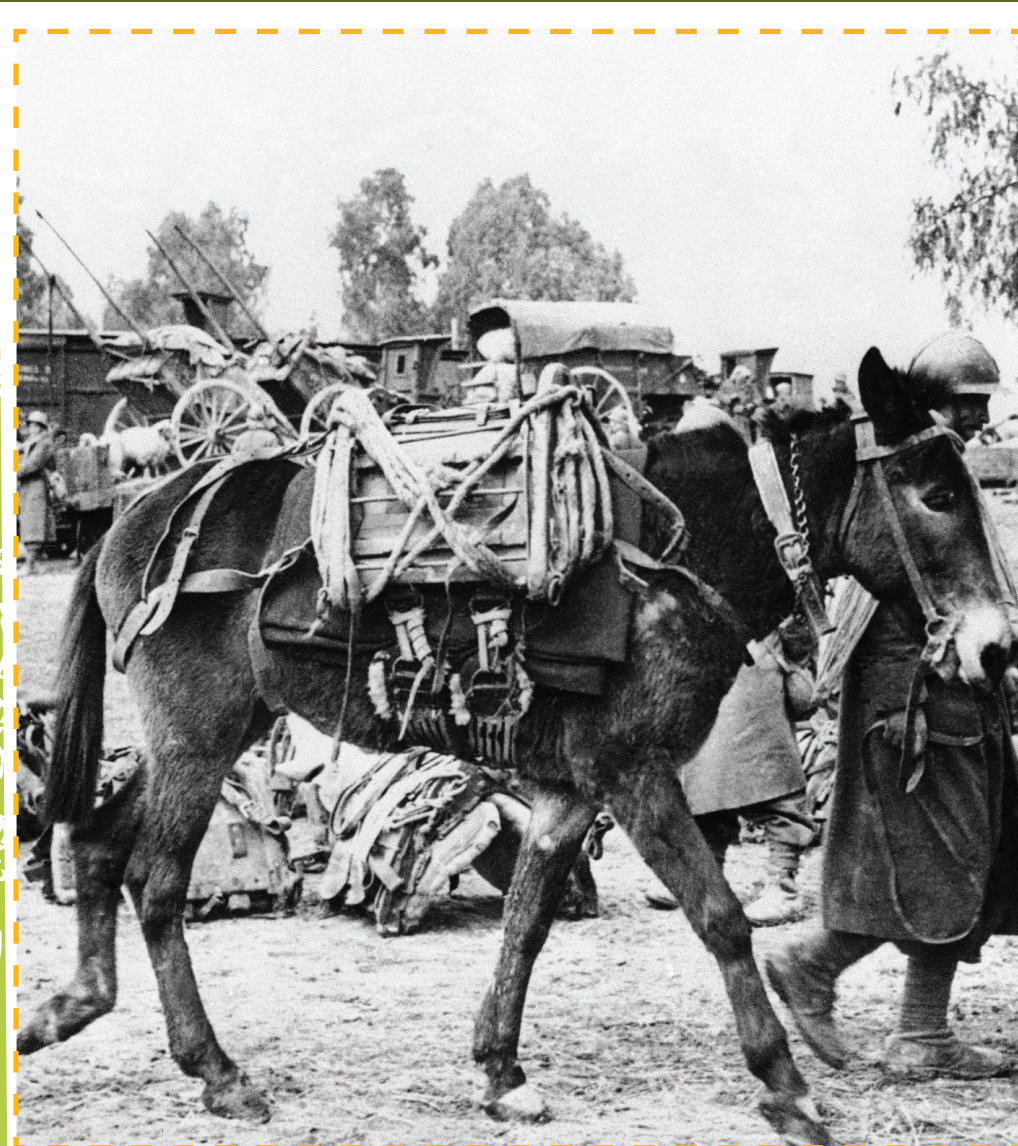


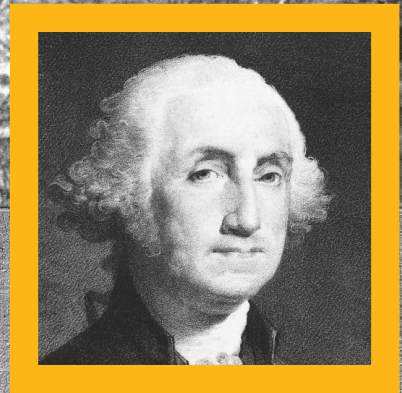
Mules, the offspring of female horses and male donkeys, have some of the best qualities of both species. They are more patient and less likely to stumble on rough and rocky ground than horses. They are also smarter and faster than donkeys. It's no wonder that they've long been used by the military to carry food, weapons, and other supplies.

During the American Civil War, the Union army in the North used as many as one million mules. They hauled food, supplies, and **ammunition** into battle zones and often carried wounded soldiers back out again. In fact, mules are credited with helping the Union win an important **skirmish** during the Battle of Gettysburg—the bloodiest battle in the entire Civil War.

These brave animals were also called into duty in World War I. The United States and its allies used as many as 300,000 mules, and the animals found themselves in the middle of the action. Ships carrying mules were often the targets of attacks by German submarines because the enemy knew how valuable they were.

MULES ARE STRONG ANIMALS THAT CAN CARRY HEAVY LOADS ACROSS LONG DISTANCES.





GEORGE WASHINGTON'S MULES

George Washington was one of the first Americans to breed a herd of mules. Their father was a donkey named Royal Gift, which Washington received as a gift from the king of Spain.

WORLD WAR II MULE TRAINS FOLLOWED STEEP, ROCKY TRAILS TO DELIVER SUPPLIES TO US TROOPS ON THE FRONT LINES.

Mules were used during the war for hauling wagons loaded with as much as 3,000 pounds of cargo. Six mules pulled each wagon. In areas where wagons couldn't pass through, trains of fifty or more mules, carrying 250 pounds each, could travel sixty miles in a day.

During World War II, mules were called upon once again. They were able to travel through

the steep mountainous areas of northern Italy as well as the dense jungles of Burma and the desert regions of North Africa—places trucks, jeeps, tanks, and even horses couldn't reach.

Today, marines are trained to use mules on missions in the mountains of Afghanistan. In steep, remote mountain areas, mules are even more valuable than **Humvees** and helicopters. ★★