

dogs!

A film experience to invite careful looking and listening

STUDY GUIDE

CHURCHILL FILMS
662 North Robertson Blvd.
Los Angeles, California 90069

GLUE THIS SURFACE TO FILM CAN LID

MENSION FILM

Rhythms and Movement

Show with your own body how dogs sleep, wake up, stretch, sit, etc. Use your body or objects to make dog rhythms: heavy big-dog steps, light puppy steps, stalking-prey steps, running, growing tired, etc.

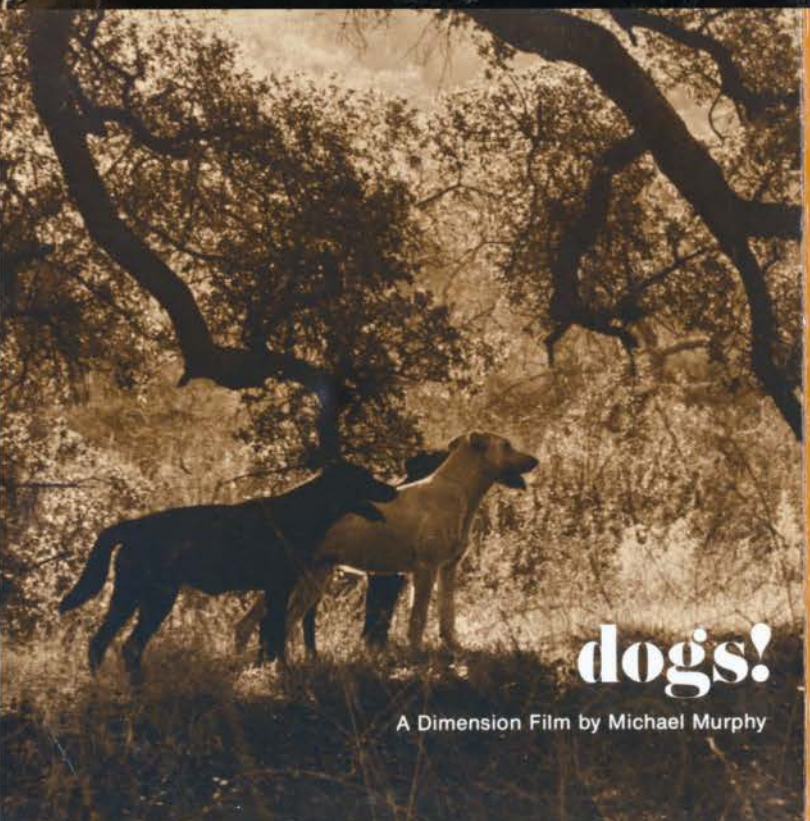
Science and Health

What are some ways that dogs communicate? (If one felt playful or angry, would the others know?) How did the mother-dog care for her pups? What do dogs need for good health? Do they run and play the whole day? How do they balance their activities? In some places, dogs still live in the wild. How do you think they get food? How do they protect themselves? (The film shows several clues: fast runners, strong teeth, living in packs, sharp ears.)

Social Studies

If the dogs in the film lived in the city, how would their lives be different?

What special qualities make dogs favorite pets? Around the world, dogs work for people in different ways. Use books and pictures to discover some.



Grade level:

PRE-SCHOOL, PRIMARY, ELEMENTARY, Sec., Adult

15 minutes/color/16mm

Purpose

To provide opportunities to develop language skills, sensory awareness, and careful observation; and to provide a springboard for creative expression. You can use this film in many different ways, as this guide suggests.

Content

A film experience to invite careful looking and listening.

A group of dogs in the countryside, and at home. The camera observes in a sensitive and detailed way: as the dogs explore a stream and drink, we see how their tongues work to toss beads of water upwards. The rhythms and sounds, the ways of relating and communicating that are special to dogs. NOTE: The brief birth sequence is treated with care and discretion.

Film Study

The process of making this film is shown in another Churchill Film called "A FILM ABOUT A FILM ABOUT DOGS". Used together, these two offer many opportunities for film study.

Introducing the Film

Each subject heading suggests things to look for in the film. Here's one idea: How could you tell a visitor from space (who has never seen a dog) how to recognize this animal, and not mistake it for a cat or any other creature? (Each child or group can look for one thing: shape, features, ways of moving, sounds, and so on.)

Oral and Written Language

The film told a story in pictures. Tell part of the story in your own words.

Think of colorful words to express the many sounds of dogs (bark, whine, growl, snarl, rrruff, yip, yap, etc.) Write a poem, using words that best capture the feeling of dogs. Write a story, "If I Were a Dog". Tell what you would do and how you would feel.

The Arts: Learning to Listen and Look

Listen to the film with the picture lamp off. What can you tell about each scene? Where is it? Is it sad or happy? What's happening?

Find pictures of dogs. How many different shapes can you find? Textures of coats? Colors? Any colors that dogs never have?