

Laura McShane

## The Great Serum Race 40 min

Objective:

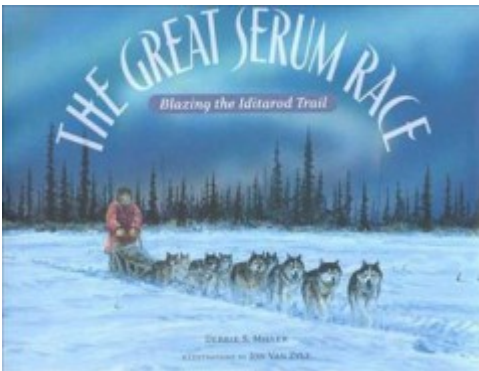
Understand epidemic, population, vaccines and role of medicine in controlling disease.

Big Idea:

Role of non-human animal species and interspecies communication in history of world

### 1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 20 min

Read *The Great Serum Race - Blazing the Iditarod Trail* by Debbie S. Miller with illustrations by Jon Van Zyle



Every March, the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race commemorates the 1925 serum run to Nome. The race begins in Anchorage and ends in Nome, more than 1000 miles away.

Balto and his owner, Gunnar Kasson, ca. 1925. CPL



## 2. Investigation and New Learning 20 min

Open Educational Resources:

<https://iditarod.com/edu/about-iditarod-edu/>

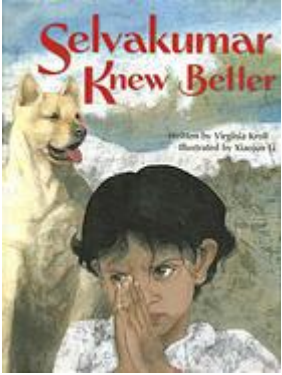
<https://www.wonderopolis.org/wonder/what-is-a-dog-sled>

<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/the-last-great-race-teaching-the-iditarod/view>

<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/balto>

[http://www.partnershipsmakeadifference.org/uploads/3/9/3/2/3932381/tracking\\_the\\_iditarod.pdf](http://www.partnershipsmakeadifference.org/uploads/3/9/3/2/3932381/tracking_the_iditarod.pdf)

Additional reading:



[Selvakumar Knew Better](#) by Virginia Kroll - illustrated by Xiaojun Li

<https://www.oercommons.org/courses/once-and-future-tsunamis/view>

### 3. Review & Check for Understanding

Follow up with a visit to the Cleveland Museum of Natural History

<https://www.cmnh.org/balto>

After their courageous feat, Balto and his team became part of the vaudeville circuit and then were sold to become a sideshow attraction in a dime museum in Los Angeles. This development and the dogs' poor living conditions caught the attention of Cleveland native, [George Kimble](#), who organized an effort to help save the dogs. Through collaborative effort, Cleveland rallied together to raise enough funds to purchase Balto and six other dogs from the team, allowing them to comfortably live out their lives at the Cleveland Zoo, now Cleveland Metroparks Zoo