

The Story of Adorable

How a rare rodent became a beloved American pet

About the Story

Lexile® Measure 930L

For qualitative complexity factors, go to Scope Online.

Learning Objective: to read a short informational text then craft a constructed response that includes a claim, text evidence, and commentary

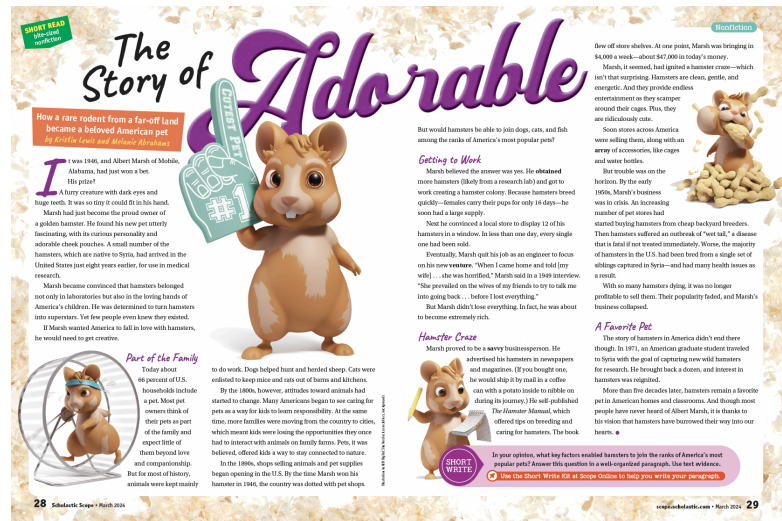
Featured Skill: constructed response

Additional skills in this lesson plan: identifying central ideas and details

Standards:

The article and its suite of support materials support these Common Core anchor standards: R.1, R.2, R.3, R.4, R.5, R.6, W.2

For more standards information—including TEKS—go to Scope Online.



Your Teaching Package

Find your full suite of support materials at scope.scholastic.com.

Audio:

- Article read-aloud
- Text-to-speech
- Vocabulary

Connected reading from the Scope archives:

- Paired Texts: "How the Wolf Became the Dog" and "How the Dog Became Part of the Family"

Activities to print, project, or share digitally:

- Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice
- Short Write Kit
- Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details*
- Quiz*

*Available on two levels

Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

1. Prepare to Read (10 minutes)

Preview Vocabulary (10 minutes)

Project the Google Slides version of **Vocabulary: Definitions and Practice** on your whiteboard. Review the definitions and complete the activity as a class. Highlighted words: *array, obtained, savvy, venture*. Audio pronunciations of the words and a read-aloud of the definitions are embedded on the slides. Optionally, print the PDF version or share the slideshow link directly to your LMS and have students preview the words and complete the activity independently before class.

2. Read and Discuss (20 minutes)

- For students' first read, have them follow along as they listen to the **audio read-aloud**, located in the Resources tab in Teacher View and at the top of the story page in Student View.
- Have students read the story again.
- Optionally, divide students into groups to complete the **Core Skills Workout: Central Ideas and Details** activity. This graphic organizer asks students to identify the central idea and supporting details of each section of the article and the central idea of the article as a whole. (This activity comes on two levels, with more or less scaffolding.)

3. Write About It (20 minutes)

Have students complete the **Short Write Kit**. This activity guides students to write a claim, support it with text evidence, and provide commentary in response to the prompt on page 29 in the printed magazine and at the bottom of the digital story page:

In your opinion, what key factors enabled hamsters to join the ranks of America's most popular pets? Answer this question in a well-organized paragraph. Use text evidence.

Connected reading from the Scope archives:

- Paired Texts: [“How the Wolf Became the Dog”](#) and [“How the Dog Became Part of the Family”](#)

Support for Multilingual Learners

Build Vocabulary by Learning Synonyms and Antonyms

- After reading “The Story of Adorable,” share the following definitions and examples with students.

Synonym: A word that means the same or nearly the same as another word→big/large

Antonym: A word that means the opposite or nearly the opposite of another word→big/small

- Have students study each word group from “The Story of Adorable” listed below and identify the words as synonyms or antonyms:

strange, unusual, curious (*synonyms*)

fascinating, amazing (*synonyms*)

cute, adorable (*synonyms*)

tiny, large (*antonyms*)

wealthy, rich (*synonyms*)

hated, loved (*antonyms*)

- Alternatively, for a more challenging version of the activity, put each word on a card and have students sort the cards into synonym/antonym groups on their own. Invite students to use a dual-language dictionary or thesaurus if needed. They could also add synonyms or antonyms to each word group, in English and/or their home language.