

Exploration 3

Student Activity Sheet

The Fever of '57

Your Exploration

Was it right to send Laika the dog on a one way trip into space?

Background: Dog lovers were horrified when they realized the innocent canine known as Laika was not coming home. Those who strapped her in Sputnik 2 had no intention of bringing her home. They knew the technology didn't exist yet for a safe return trip -- and they sent her anyhow. Later, the Soviet's built monuments honoring the little dog who had allowed them to make a great scientific breakthrough.

Here's What to Do

Activity 1:

Conduct research and then debate about Laika the space dog. Your two groups can split along these lines:

- 1.) Animals should be used in science and testing
- 2.) Animals should not be used, or minimally used in science and testing.

Here are some questions to get you started.

- Should Leika have been sent into space even when the Soviet's knew there was no way to bring her home alive?
- Is it right for mankind to use animals for our own scientific advancement?
- Is it ever justified to use animals in science?
- Has our society evolved in 50 years in the treatment and acceptable use of test animals?
- Have people ever been used by science or the military without their knowledge or consent, and is that acceptable?
- What animals were used in space programs, and what was their fate? How did they help us?

Activity 2:

Write poetry or essays on your personal feelings about Leika, the space dog.

Visit **The Fever of '57 Homework Helper** for videos and links to help you with Exploration 3.

www.thefeverof57.com

