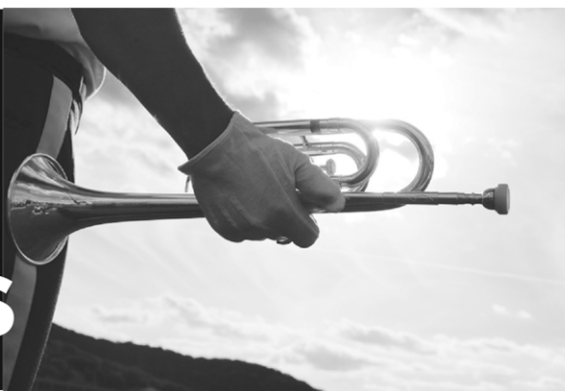


Military Mascots



U.S. Army photo by Matthew Moeller

Mini Fact:

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day.

A military **veteran** is a person who has served in the armed forces. Do you know any veterans?

Our country celebrates Veterans Day on Nov. 11, the anniversary of the end of World War I. This U.S. holiday was created in 1919 to honor members of our armed services.

In honor of Veterans Day, The Mini Page introduces the **mascots** of the military academies.

What is an academy?

A military **academy** is like a college or university for people who want to have a career in the armed forces. After graduating, many students become officers in their branch.

U.S. Marine Corps

The United States Marine Corps does not have an academy. Instead, Marines attend the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

But the Marines still have a mascot. His name is Chesty the bulldog.

During World War I, German soldiers called Marines “devil dogs.”

The Marine Corps started using a picture of an English bulldog wearing a helmet on its recruiting posters.

In 1957, Chesty I came to live at the Marine Barracks in Washington, D.C. Chesty

was named for Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Puller, whose nickname was Chesty. Today, Lance Cpl. Chesty XV (the 15th) is the official mascot.

U.S. Army

The U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York, chose a mule for its mascot because mules were used for hauling gear for the Army. In 1936, Mr. Jackson (named for Stonewall Jackson, a Confederate general during the Civil War) arrived at West Point.

Today, members of the Mule Corps take turns participating in parades, sporting events and other ceremonies for the Army.

U.S. Navy

Two goats named Bill, XXXVI (the 36th) and XXXVII (the 37th), are the mascots of the Navy. The first goat, El Cid, arrived in 1893. In the early 1900s, the name was changed to Bill.

Goats, used for milk and butter and to eat garbage, were often onboard ships in early British and American navies.



Army photo by: John Pellino

Paladin, the Army's newest mule mascot.



Bill XXXVI

DoD Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. James K. McCann

U.S. Air Force

At the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado, a falcon is the mascot. This majestic bird was chosen by the first class to enter the academy. The falcon is named Mach I, which refers to the speed of sound.

But today, the academy keeps 10 to 15 falcons, and their trainers give them each individual names, too.

Ziva, right, and her handler, Cadet First Class Jensen Caster.

photo by: Sgt. Brian Ferguson

U.S. Air Force Photo/Master Sgt. Brian Ferguson

U.S. Coast Guard

The U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, chose the black bear as its mascot in 1926. For some years, the bear, named Objee, lived on the campus. But the surrounding community wasn't happy with the bear's presence, and in 1984, Objee XXXI (the 31st) moved to a farm in New York. He was the last living Coast Guard bear.



photo courtesy U.S. Coast Guard Academy

A statue of Objee the bear on the Coast Guard Academy campus.

Resources

On the Web:

- bit.ly/MPmascots

At the library:

- “A Marine’s Tail: Chesty Goes to Boot Camp” by Brandon W. Barnett



Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of military mascots are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward or diagonally, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

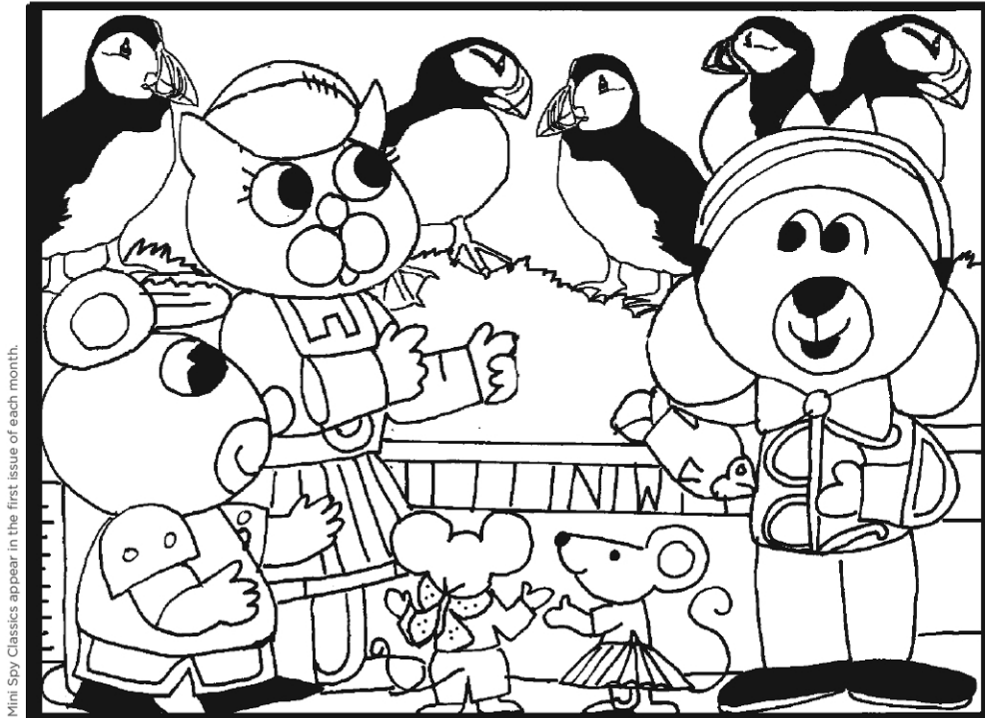


ACADEMY, AIR FORCE, ARMISTICE, ARMY, BEAR, BILL, BULLDOG, CHESTY, COAST GUARD, DAY, FALCON, GOAT, MACH, MARINE, MASCOT, MILITARY, MULE, NAVY, OBJEE, PALADIN, VETERAN.

D K P A L A D I N D E F Y A D
T Y E N I R A M A R K F O Y B
A I R F O R C E R A U N B T O
W D M U L E J M M U M A U S Y
R A E B I L L R I G A R L E M
M I L I T A R Y S T S E L H R
I X U M N A V Y T S C T D C A
Y M E D A C A Z I A O E O O E
K Y F A L C O N C O T V G I Z
G O A T Y H H B E C O B J E E

Mini Spy Classics

Mini Spy and her friends are visiting the puffins at the zoo. See if you can find the hidden pictures. Then color the picture.



Hey Mini Spy Fans! Order your Mini Spy Booklets (Volumes 1, 2 and 3) with 48 of your favorite puzzles! Visit MiniPageBooks.com, or call 844-426-1256 to order. Just \$4 plus \$1 shipping.

- word MINI
- number 3
- fish
- banana
- eyeglasses
- football
- mushroom
- ruler
- key
- letter J
- letter D
- umbrella
- letter E
- mug
- butterfly

Mini Jokes

Max: What do you call a goat at sea?

Maddie: Billy Ocean!



Eco Note

Organic farming is a method of farming without chemicals. Organic farmers use manure and crop waste to fertilize the soil instead of chemical fertilizers. Different crops are grown in fields each year. This practice, called **crop rotation**, helps restore nutrients to the soil. These farmers encourage pest-eating predators such as ladybugs to control insects, rather than spraying with pesticides.

adapted with permission from “50 Things You Should Know About the Environment” by Jen Green, © QEB Publishing Inc.

For later:

Look in your newspaper to find out when the Army-Navy football game will be on, then plan to watch. Look for the mascots on the field!

Teachers: For standards-based activities to accompany this feature, visit: bit.ly/MPstandards. And follow The Mini Page on Facebook!



Books from The Mini Page are wonderful resources and make great gifts! See all of our Mini Page products at MiniPageBooks.com, or call 800-642-6480 for more information. Mail payment to: Andrews McMeel Universal, Mini Page Books, 1130 Walnut, Kansas City, MO 64106. Include \$4.00 shipping and handling per order.

