IN BRIEF

Togo and Balto to the Rescue is the story of two heroic dogs who saved the children of a small Alaskan town from a dangerous disease. This pack is all about dogs – and why they are such amazing friends to humans!



1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS

- Reading stories is a brilliant way to introduce new words to children's vocabularies, but what should kids do if they come across a word they don't know? That's where the **Storytime Glossary** comes in! It lists all the tricky words and phrases in this month's issue so students can look up the definitions for themselves. Encourage members of the class to note down unfamiliar words as they read! Perhaps pupils can share the new words they came across.

- Dogs have lived alongside humans for many thousands of years. The **Class Discussion Sheet** has questions about how dogs relate to people and communicate with them. Students can talk about the ways in which the dogs they know behave and even fill in a profile of their favourite real or fictional dog.

- The **Reading Comprehension Sheet** has an extract from Togo and Balto's story. Can your pupils find a *comparative adjective*, a *superlative adjective* and an *intensifier* in the text? This could make an ideal starting point for a lesson about these grammatical concepts.

- Togo and Balto's story is quite a complex one, which will make putting the events on the **Story Sequencing Sheet** in the right order a bit of a challenge! Pupils should feel free to reread the story if they need to check when a certain thing happened.

- The **Storyboard** page has art from the story and space underneath for students to retell the tale of Togo and Balto's adventures in their own words. Which elements of the story will they concentrate on, and what parts will they decide to leave out?

Continued on page 2...

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1. LITERACY LESSON IDEAS CONTINUED

- This month's **Character Sheet** is slightly different than usual, because students can *choose* which dog it will be about! They should write Togo or Balto's name at the top of the page and then answer the questions. Encourage the children to use their imaginations and try to look at the world from a dog's point of view.

- Different dogs have different personalities! The seven hounds on the **Doggie Adjectives!** page say something about what they are like, and it's your pupils' job to work out which adjective best describes them. This could also be done as a group activity, with members of the class discussing which adjective fits each dog.

- **A Dog's Day** is all about verbs. Which word should be used to complete the sentences from a dog's diary?

- Test your students' reading comprehension by getting them to answer the questions on the **Togo and Balto Fact Check** page. Beware: some of the possible answers are a little bit tricky!

- The **An Alaskan Adventure** page challenges students to retell this month's cover story from Togo or Balto's point of view. What would the journey be like from their perspective, and how would they think about it? (The tale the students write would only need to cover the bit of the journey that their chosen dog was on, of course!)

2. SCIENCE LESSON IDEAS

- The **Amazing Dogs!** page lists some of the reasons why dogs are so wonderful! There are also follow-on questions for students to answer by themselves or as part of a class discussion.

- There are hundreds of different breeds of dogs in the world, and the **Canine Champions!** sheet lists nine that are the best at what they do. Can your students think of other dogs and the awards they should be given?

- Dogs are faithful friends and companions to people, but they do lots of other things, too. **The World's Best Workers!** page asks pupils to match up the dogs with their jobs...

Continued on page 3...

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3. GEOGRAPHY LESSON IDEA

- This month's cover story is set in the US state of Alaska. Can your pupils use their research skills to answer the questions on the **All About Alaska!** page? They should also find out their own fact about this state and write it in. This will be easy, as Alaska is a very interesting place!

4. MATHS LESSON IDEA

- It gets very cold in Alaska – so cold that temperatures often go below zero degrees Celsius in winter! The **How Cold Is It?** sheet has maths problems involving very low temperatures. This activity demonstrates how negative numbers can be used in the real world, and it could lead to a discussion about how we measure temperature.

5. ART LESSON IDEA

- Togo and Balto were brave, strong, determined... and very cute as well! Get your students to colour in the picture of the dog on the **Colour Our Hero!** sheet – they could turn it into a picture of Balto or Togo, or create their own cool pattern on the animal's fur.

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

1 OF 2

If you don't recognise a word in the magazine, look it up here!

Togo and Balto to the Rescue (Page 6)

- **Diphtheria:** serious infection caused by bacteria
- **Contagious:** able to spread from person to person
- **Pricked up:** went up in an alert way
- **Approaching:** getting closer
- **Sensitive:** quick to notice small things
- **Blizzard:** strong snowstorm
- **Serum:** liquid used to treat diseases
- **Exhausted:** extremely tired and worn out
- **Cargo:** things being carried
- **Legacy:** thing he is remembered for

Simple Simon's Big Catch (Page 12)

- **Determinedly:** in a way that shows he really wants to do something
- **Strode:** walked in a powerful way
- **Cast:** threw
- **Nibbled:** took small bites of
- **Pluck:** quickly pick or grab
- **Thistle:** kind of spiky plant
- **Sieve:** bowl-like tool with many holes in it
- **Wriggling:** moving in a twisting way
- **Cheerfully:** in a happy and energetic way
- **Tucked him into bed:** put him in bed and made sure the blankets were around him

Journey to the Infinite Mountain (Page 14)

- **Twinkle:** little sparkle
- **Pierces:** goes through
- **Plunges:** falls suddenly
- **Gazed:** looked
- **Creased:** marked with folds
- **Faded:** lost colour over time
- **Saddles:** leather seats put on horses
- **Whinnied:** made a high-pitched horse noise
- **Radiator:** device used to cool engine
- **Drenched:** completely wet
- **Drizzle:** light rain
- **Plume:** feather-like shape
- **Breathtaking:** amazingly impressive
- **Rusty:** covered with rust
- **Hinges:** metal joints that allow doors to open and close

The Coyote's Makeover (Page 20)

- **Peered:** looked carefully
- **Reflection:** image in a shiny surface
- **Canyon:** steep valley
- **Armadillo:** small animal with hard shell
- **Forked:** split into two parts
- **Distrust:** not trust
- **Thicket:** tangle of trees and bushes
- **Carnivore:** meat-eating animal
- **Cedar:** kind of tree
- **Dappled:** marked with spots
- **Gritted fangs:** fangs bitten together
- **Bedraggled:** wet and messy

Continued on page 2...

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STORYTIME GLOSSARY

Prince Kindheart (Page 23)

- **Education:** learning in school
- **Gentleness:** kindness and tenderness
- **Selfish:** thinking only about himself
- **Whined:** complained in an annoying way
- **Piercing:** loud and high-pitched
- **Outstretched:** fully stretched out
- **Invisible:** not able to be seen
- **Thirsty:** needing to drink
- **Shaft:** deep, narrow space
- **Sneered:** said in a mocking way
- **Document:** paper with writing on it
- **Boasted:** talked proudly about himself
- **Saluted:** made a gesture to show respect

Queen Maeve (Page 30)

- **Smirked:** smiled in a nasty way
- **Wealthiest:** richest
- **Declared:** said in a loud and forceful way
- **Furious:** very angry
- **Summon:** call for
- **Bellowed:** shouted in a loud, deep voice
- **Whirring:** whistling hum made by something moving quickly
- **Foster-father:** person who cares for someone as if they were their real father
- **Raged:** took place in a violent way
- **Glistening:** shining with reflected light
- **Lassoed:** caught with a loop of rope
- **Retreat:** leave the battle
- **Huffing and puffing:** breathing in and out powerfully

The Secret of Silk (Page 35)

- **Tame:** made able to be controlled
- **Millet:** kind of grain
- **Astronomy:** study of stars and planets
- **Empress:** female ruler of an empire
- **Tunic:** shirt-like garment
- **Apologise:** say sorry
- **Mulberry:** kind of berry-growing tree
- **Grubs:** young insects in a worm-like form
- **Cocoon:** protective case
- **Dissolved:** fell apart when put in liquid
- **Teased out:** gently pulled out
- **Spindle:** tool used to spin threads
- **Shimmering:** shining in the light
- **Precious:** of great value

The Bear's Bargain (Page 40)

- **Bargain:** deal between two or more people or animals
- **Orchard:** group of fruit trees
- **Wealthy:** rich
- **Lentils:** small bean-like vegetables
- **Licked his chops:** licked his lips hungrily
- **Wheedled:** said in a cunning way
- **Rumbled:** made a deep sound
- **Burped:** loudly let air out of mouth
- **Morsels:** small pieces of food
- **Basement:** part of house below ground
- **Tantrum:** outburst of anger
- **Teetering:** wobbling and about to fall
- **Puzzled:** confused
- **Shattered:** broke into many pieces
- **Ambled:** walked in a slow, clumsy way

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CLASS DISCUSSION SHEET

LET'S TALK ABOUT...

Humans' Best Friends! Dogs have lived with people for a long time as our faithful companions and helpers. What makes them so special?

1. Dogs are social animals who like to spend time with members of their packs – including their owners. What do they like to do with humans?

2. They can't talk like humans, but dogs have their own ways of communicating. How do they let humans know what they are thinking and feeling?

3. Dogs make great pets, but they can help humans in other ways too. What jobs can dogs be trained to do?

4. What do you think is the *best* thing about dogs?

THE BEST DOG IN THE WORLD?

Tell us about your favourite dog! It could be one you know, or one from a book, movie or TV programme.

What is their name?

What are they like?

What do they love to do?

Draw their portrait!

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READING COMPREHENSION SHEET

Spot a *comparative adjective*, a *superlative adjective* and an *intensifier*!

> The wide bay was covered with ice. If they went across it, they could cut a day off their journey and get the medicine to the children faster.
>
> Togo had made this trip across the bay before, and he knew it was very dangerous! The sea ice could be slippery and smooth or sharp enough to cut his paws. Worst of all, it could break up underneath him and drop him into the sea.

1. A *comparative adjective* is a describing word that is used to compare two things, and it often ends in *-er*. What is the comparative adjective in the second sentence of the extract?

2. An *intensifier* is a word that is used to make the meaning of a word *stronger* in a sentence. Can you spot the intensifier in the third sentence?

3. *A superlative adjective* is used to describe words that are the *most* (or *least*) in some way. Find the superlative adjective in the last sentence!

COMPARATIVE OR SUPERLATIVE?

Which of these words are comparative *adjectives, and which are* superlative *adjectives?*

Smaller Tiniest
Youngest Smellier
Stranger Sweetest

ANSWERS: 1. *Faster*. 2. *Very*. 3. *Worst*.
Comparative or Superlative? *Smaller, smellier* and *stranger* are comparative adjectives, and *tiniest, youngest* and *sweetest* are superlative adjectives.

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STORY SEQUENCING SHEET

Which order should these events from Togo and Balto's story be in? Number the different sections from one to eleven.

The local sled drivers or 'mushers' came up with a plan to get the life-saving medicine to Nome by using teams of sled dogs. ☐

Seppala and Togo went up a mountain before meeting Charlie Olson and his dogs. He took the medicine on towards the town of Nome. ☐

In the winter of 1925, many Inuit children living near Nome got ill. The town doctor knew they had a disease called diphtheria. ☐

When they were back on dry land, Togo heard another dog team. They were carrying the medicine, and Seppala took it. ☐

The town's most famous musher was called Leonhard Seppala, and his best dog was called Togo. They set out to do their bit! ☐

Charlie then handed the medicine to musher Gunnar Karlsen, whose dog team was led by Balto. Their path was soon blocked by snow! ☐

Nome didn't have much medicine for diphtheria and needed more! The only way to get it to the town was by dog sled. ☐

Balto found a way around the snow on the path, but the sled then tipped over. The precious medicine was nearly lost. ☐

Before long, Seppala, Togo and the rest of the dog team reached Norton Sound and made a risky trip across the sea ice. ☐

In the tiny town of Nome, Alaska, people relied on dog sleds for transport. People there loved their dogs! ☐

Despite the obstacles, Balto and Gunnar got the medicine to Nome. The local children were saved, and Togo and Balto were heroes! ☐

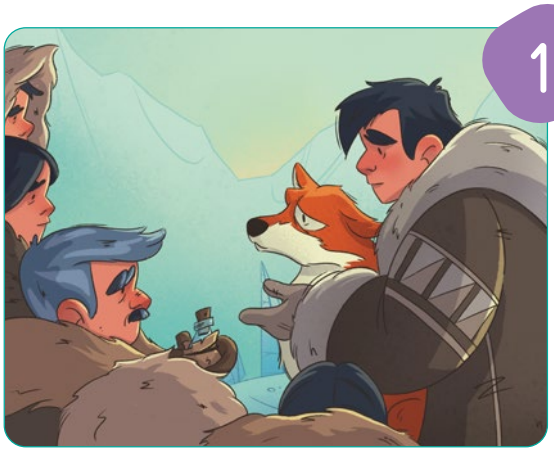
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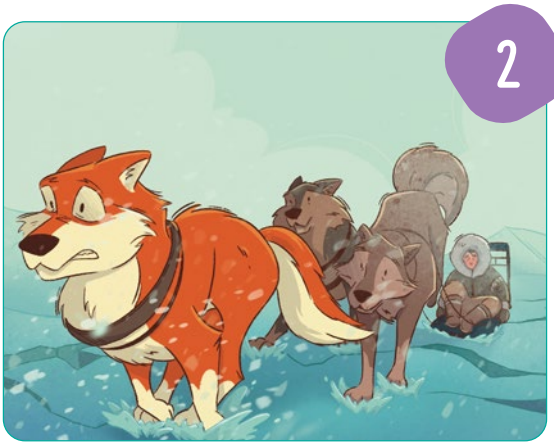
STORYBOARD

How well do you know the story of Togo and Balto's epic journey? Tell their tale in your own words under the pictures below!

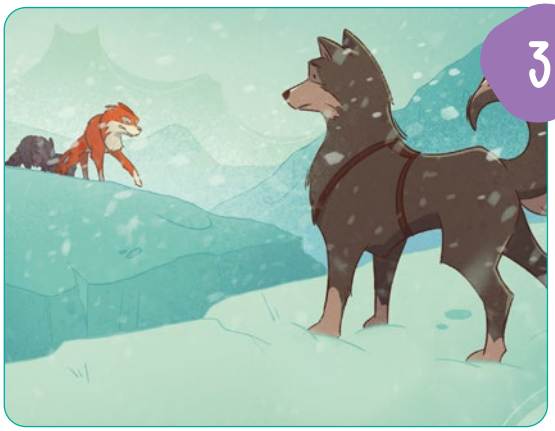
1



2



3



4



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CHARACTER SHEET: _____

Choose either Togo or Balto and see if you can describe that amazing dog! Answer the questions below by trying to imagine what life would be like for a dog in Alaska.

What three words would you use to describe the dog?

_____

_____

_____

They worked hard pulling sleds, but what might they do for fun?

_____

_____

What do you think they would like to eat as a treat?

_____

_____

Draw the perfect kennel to shelter a dog in a cold climate!

↘

They were furry! But did they feel cold too? How did they keep warm?

_____

_____

What do you think their ideal day would be like in Alaska?

_____

_____

_____

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DOGGIE ADJECTIVES!

Different dogs have different personalities. Can you work out which of the adjectives at the bottom of the page would best fit each of these dogs, based on what they have to say?



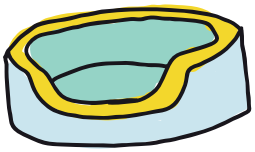
1. I am LOVING!
2. I am HUNGRY!
3. I am PROTECTIVE!
4. I am INTELLIGENT!
5. I am PLAYFUL!
6. I am HELPFUL!
7. I am DETERMINED!

ANSWERS: A. 2, B. 7, C. 5, D. 3, E. 1, F. 6, G. 4.

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A DOG'S DAY



Can you match the *verbs* (doing words) listed below with the activities that a dog would do every day?

A. I _____ a breakfast of delicious dog biscuits!

B. I _____ refreshing water from my bowl!



C. I _____ myself when I feel itchy.

D. When someone comes to the door, I _____!

E. I love to _____ around the park with my human!

F. I _____ things that smell interesting!



G. I _____ a hole in the garden!

H. When I feel tired, I _____ in my kennel!



1. SNIFF
2. SLEEP
3. DIG
4. EAT
5. BARK
6. SCRATCH
7. DRINK
8. WALK





ANSWERS: A. 4, B. 7, C. 6, D. 5, E. 8, F. 1, G. 3, H. 2.

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TOGO AND BALTO FACT CHECK

How well did you follow the story? Test your knowledge with this quiz!

A. Which state is the town of Nome in?

- ☐ California
- ☐ Alaska

B. What disease did kids near Nome catch?

- ☐ Diphtheria
- ☐ Measles

C. Who was Togo's owner?

- ☐ Gunnar Kaasen
- ☐ Leonhard Seppala

D. What is a sled driver called?

- ☐ A sledder
- ☐ A musher

E. What was the last challenge of Togo's journey?

- ☐ Climbing Little McKinley
- ☐ Going across Norton Sound

F. What breed of dog was Balto?

- ☐ Siberian Husky
- ☐ German Shepherd

G. What was the first thing in Nome that the dogs saw?

- ☐ The church tower
- ☐ The radio tower

H. Which musher carried the precious vaccine into Nome?

- ☐ Gunnar Kaasen
- ☐ Henry Ivanoff

I. When did the Great Race of Mercy take place?

- ☐ 1925
- ☐ 1952

J. Who did Balto get a medal from?

- ☐ Roald Amundsen
- ☐ Roald Dahl

ANSWERS:
A. Alaska, B. Diphtheria, C. Leonhard Seppala, D. A musher, E. Climbing Little McKinley, F. Siberian Husky, G. The church tower, H. Gunnar Kaasen, I. Roald Amundsen, J. 1925.

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AN ALASKAN ADVENTURE

You have read the story of the amazing trip that Togo and Balto went on, but how would one of these dogs describe their journey? Write about it from Togo or Balto's point of view!

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AMAZING DOGS!

Here are fascinating facts about dogs – but can you complete the questions with each one?

Dogs are the #1 pets!

A third of all households around the world have a dog as a pet.

What do you think are in 2nd and 3rd place?

_____

_____

Dogs' closest relatives are wolves!

Dogs evolved from a now-extinct type of wolf during the last ice age, around 30,000 years ago. Soon after this, dogs were tamed by humans! Early hounds probably followed human hunters and ate the food they left behind. Humans adopted these wild dogs, who became domesticated.

What are these animals related to?

Mammoth: _____

African wildcat: _____

Chimpanzee: _____

Hippo: _____

We humans have created over 360 different breeds of dogs!

Some are big, some are small, and some are experts at doing different things. Togo and Balto are *Siberian Huskies*.

Which other breeds can you think of?

_____

_____

They have amazing noses!

A dog's sense of smell is *10,000 to 100,000 times* more acute than a human's. They recognise us and each other by specific smells, and each dog's nose print is unique – like a fingerprint!

Which other animals are super-smellers?

_____

_____

ANSWERS: #2 are cats and #3 are fish! Mammoth: Elephant, African wildcat: Cats, Chipanzee: Humans, Hippos: Whales. Other Super Smellers Are: elephants, bears, rats,pigs, sharks, snakes, bats, ants and kiwis!

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CANINE CHAMPIONS

Dogs come in all different shapes and sizes. Here are nine incredible hounds that are the best in their own unique way.

The TALLEST dog in the world is...

... the Great Dane! The biggest recorded dog of this breed was 87cm tall when on all fours – or 2.26m when standing on two legs!

The champion at SMELLING is...

... the Bloodhound! With 230 *million* scent receptors in its nose, this dog can track animals by smell for many miles!

The CLEVEREST dog in the world is...

... well, it's hard to tell, because dogs can't take tests! But most vets agree it is the Border Collie – these herding dogs need lots of activity to keep their brains busy.

The dog HEAVYWEIGHT champion is...

... the English Mastiff. The highest recorded weight for one of these hounds is 156.5kg!

The SMALLEST DOG comes from...

... Mexico! The Chihuahua weighs 2.7kg at the heaviest... and many are lighter than this!

The LONG DISTANCE champion is...

... the Siberian Husky! Dogs of this breed can run dozens of miles a day through the snow while pulling heavy sleds.

The BEST SWIMMER is...

... the Portuguese Water Dog! They are at home in the water, thanks to their webbed feet and waterproof coats. These dogs even herd fish into nets!

The FASTEST hounds are...

... Greyhounds! They can run fast enough to get a speeding ticket, zooming around at over 70 kilometres per hour.

The record of TOP BARKER goes to...

... the Golden Retriever, who can hit 113.1 decibels – that's louder than an electric saw!

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THE WORLD'S BEST WORKERS!

Dogs love to help humans, and they have been bred to do lots of different jobs for us. Can you match the job on the left with the dog on the right?

1. Truffle Hunter
2. Emotional Support Pet
3. Sniffer Dog
4. Police Dog
5. Whale Poop Detector
6. Sled Dog
7. Guide Dog
8. Search and Rescue Dog
9. Sheepdog



OUR CLEVER COMPANIONS!

- Dogs pay attention to us! They notice the things we say and do and can learn what up to 100 words or gestures mean. They can also learn tricks!
- Adult dogs are about as smart as a two-year-old! Like two-year-olds, they love to learn and play.
- As well as the jobs shown above, dogs are trained as service dogs, therapy dogs, working dogs, hunting and sporting dogs, entertainment and performance dogs, research and experimental dogs, tracking and trailing dogs, vermin control dogs and mascots.

ANSWERS: 1. F, 2. I, 3. B, 4. H, 5. G, 6. E, 7. D, 8. C, 9. A.

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ALL ABOUT ALASKA!



Nome is in the state of Alaska! Can you look up the answers to all of these questions about Alaska and find out a cool fact of your own?

Capital: _____

The country it is a state of:

_____

Became a state in: _____

Population: _____

Has a land border with: _____

Largest city: _____

State dog: _____

State fish: _____

State Sport: _____



Circle the four animals that do NOT live in Alaska!

Fun Fact!

The fact I discovered about Alaska is: _____

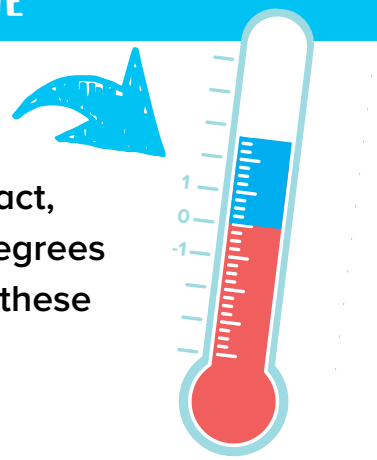
_____

_____

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NAME _____ CLASS _____

HOW COLD IS IT?



In Alaska, it gets *really* cold – so cold, in fact, that the temperature can go *below* zero degrees Celsius! Can you work out the answers to these tricky temperature questions?

A. If the temperature was **2 degrees Celsius** and it went down by **4 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

B. If the temperature was **-3 degrees Celsius** and it went down by **5 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

C. If the temperature was **-12 degrees Celsius** and it went up by **9 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

D. If the temperature was **2 degrees Celsius** and it went down by **6 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

E. If the temperature was **-10 degrees Celsius** and it went up by **4 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

F. If the temperature was **-5 degrees Celsius** and it went up by **6 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

G If the temperature was **-20 degrees Celsius** and it went down by **9 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

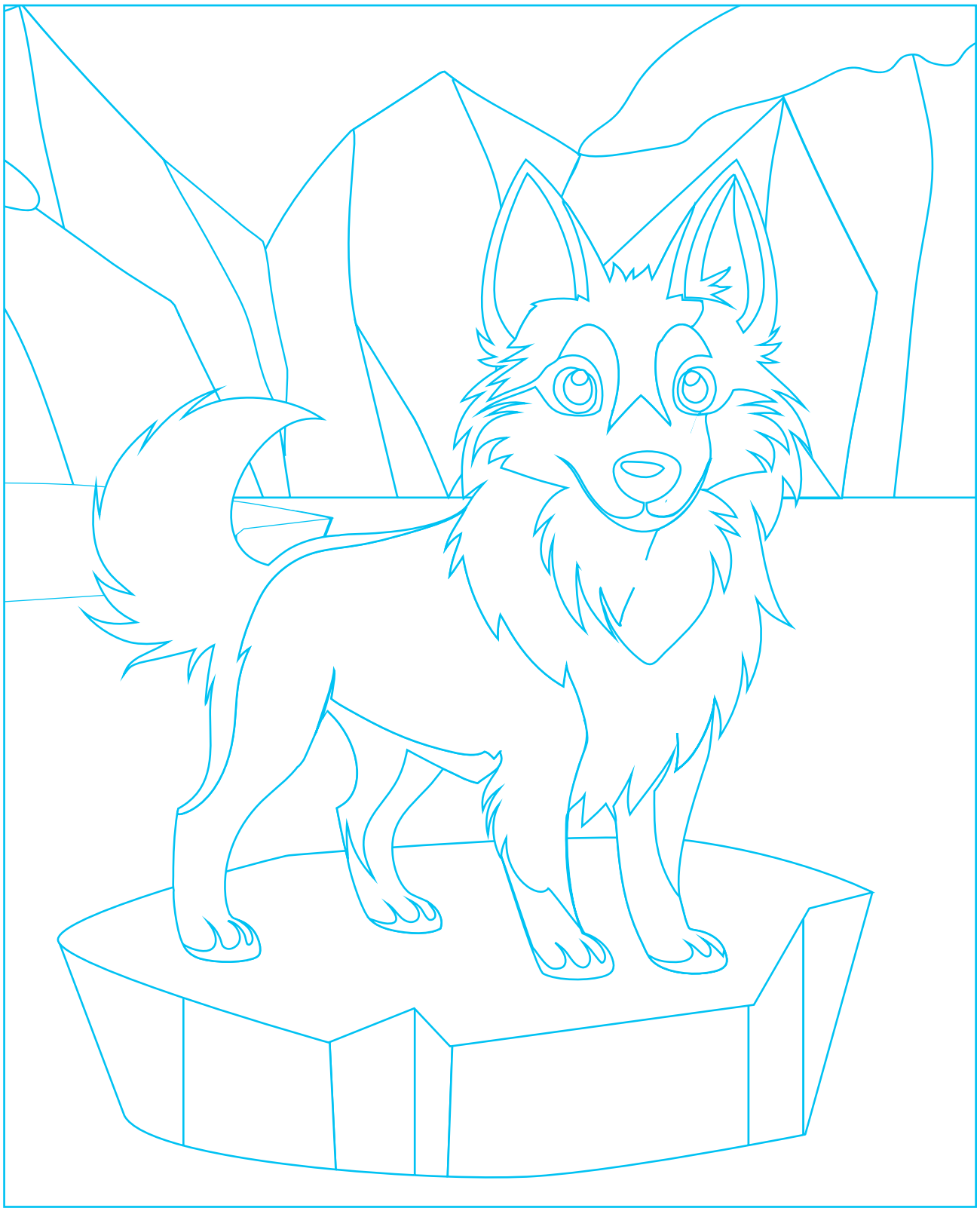
H. If the temperature was **-2 degrees Celsius** and it went up by **18 degrees**, what temperature would it be now?

ANSWERS: A. -2°C, B. -8°C, C. -3°C, D. -4°C, E. -6°C, F. 1°C, G. -29°C, H. 16°C.

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COLOUR OUR HERO!



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