



**Artisan**  
Creative  
Books | Recordings | Performance

# The Spirit Dog

## KS2 Teacher Resources

Briefing & Curriculum Guide

### A welcome from Artisan Creative

*Hello!*

Thank you for bringing your class to *The Spirit Dog* session.

*The Spirit Dog* is a true story. An adventure set high in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco. It began with putting one foot in front of the other and walking into the mountains.

Over time, it became a book (written by Steve Bonham, beautifully illustrated by Tasia Graham), a collection of songs, and now a live storytelling and music performance created especially for young audiences.

Our aim is not simply to entertain, but to spark curiosity - about landscapes, about courage, about friendship, about loss, about risk, and about the power of stories.

We want children to leave feeling that stories matter - and that their own stories matter too.

This guide will help you link *The Spirit Dog* session to classroom learning, before and after your visit. We hope it provides both practical ideas and space for deeper exploration if you choose to extend the journey.

We're delighted you're part of the adventure.

*Steve and Chris*

Steve Bonham & Chris Lydon  
Artisan Creative



## What is *The Spirit Dog*?

- A true adventure narrative set in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco
- A live storytelling and music performance
- A participatory session including rhythm and singing
- A beautifully illustrated book
- A developing online resource hub to support classroom learning

Themes explored include: courage, loyalty, resilience, landscape, trust, loss, decision-making and sensible risk-taking.

The session works particularly well for Years 4 to 5.

## Curriculum links at a glance

- Reading for pleasure and comprehension
- Creative and reflective writing
- Geography - mountains, other cultures and global awareness
- Science - animals and adaptation
- PSHE - resilience, courage, loss and decision-making
- Music - rhythm, listening and ensemble participation
- Art - illustration and pattern design
- Speaking and listening skills



## English

The Spirit Dog supports inference, empathy, character motivation and descriptive writing. The narrative invites pupils to consider both internal feelings and external events.

- Write a diary entry from Black's perspective
- Create an alternative ending
- Write a newspaper report about the expedition
- Hold an in-character interview with the explorer or the dog



## Geography

Set in the High Atlas Mountains of Morocco, the story offers opportunities to explore physical geography (mountains, climate, terrain) and human geography (rural communities, Berber culture, landscape and lifestyle).

- Locate Morocco and the UK on a world map
- Compare the Atlas Mountains with mountain regions in the UK
- Explore how geography shapes daily life

## Science – Animals & Adaptation

- Research mountain dog breeds
- Design a 'mountain survival animal'
- Explore how animals and humans adapt to harsh environments

## PSHE – Resilience, Risk & Character

- Discuss what real courage means
- Explore when risk is sensible
- Talk about trust and loyalty
- Reflect on decision-making in unfamiliar environments
- Consider how we cope with loss when journeys or friendships change



## Music

- Create a mountain soundscape using percussion
- Compose a rhythm inspired by climbing footsteps
- Learn and revisit songs from the performance via the website

## Art & Cultural Exploration

- Use Moroccan geometric pattern designs from the website as inspiration
- Follow the step-by-step guide to draw Black and other animals
- Create your own Spirit Animal illustration
- Explore Moroccan food culture through child-friendly recipes



## Online resource hub – extending the journey

 [thespiritdog.life](https://thespiritdog.life)

*The Spirit Dog* website ([thespiritdog.life](https://thespiritdog.life)) contains a wide variety of support materials designed to extend learning beyond the live session.



### Resources include:

- Songs from the performance for classroom use (music, lyrics, recordings)
- Downloadable Moroccan geometric pattern designs
- A step-by-step guide to drawing Black and other animals from the story
- Child-friendly Moroccan recipes
- Maps of Morocco and details of the Atlas trek
- Background information about Berber communities
- Information about **Education For All Morocco**, the charity *The Spirit Dog* project supports



These materials allow you to tailor follow-up learning across subjects. They can support extended writing, geography projects, art lessons, music revisiting, cultural studies, or PSHE discussions about global education and opportunity.

We encourage you to explore the site before and after your visit to make the experience as rich and connected as possible.

*The Spirit Dog* book is available to buy today.



 [thespiritdog.life](https://thespiritdog.life)

Get a 10% discount by using code **SPRIT10** during checkout.

Contact us about ordering 10 or more copies for a bespoke discount. [info@artisan-creative.com](mailto:info@artisan-creative.com)

