

# ONCE UPON A TIME, THERE WAS A DOG NAMED HACHIKO

*Hidesaburo Ueno* was a professor that lived in **Tokyo** and worked in a University in Japan. *Hidesaburo* had always wanted a Japanese Akita dog.

He looked for the perfect Akita puppy for a long time, until one of his students encouraged him to adopt *Hachiko*, a beautiful Akita dog.

Here is a picture of the real *Hachiko*.

*Hachiko* (or Hachi, as everyone called him) and his new owner became **best friends**. *Hidesaburo* loved his dog above all and treated him as his son.

The two of them were inseparable.



As *Hachiko* grew older, he started **to see his owner off to work** in the morning at the Shibuya Train Station, in Tokyo and **went to pick him up** at the station in the afternoon when he returned from work.

**On May 21, 1925**, only two years after Hachiko was born, Hachiko was as usual sitting at the train station waiting for his friend *Hidesaburo*. But his owner never showed up.

It turned out that *Hidesaburo* suffered **a stroke** and died suddenly while he was working.

During the ten years that the dog continued to live, he kept going to the train station to wait for his friend to come from work. He sat there for hours, patiently waiting for the return of his owner, who sadly never came back.

## Rare photograph shows Hachiko relaxing alone at Shibuya Station

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Fortunately, Hachiko found a new home. At that time, a famous newspaper reporter picked up the story of Hachiko in 1932 and published it. This made Hachiko a celebrity all over Japan.

People started calling him “*Chuken-Hachiko*”, which means “*Hachiko – the faithful dog*”.

The story of the dog that never gave up gained a lot of attention also in national media, inspiring many people from all over the world to visit Hachiko at Shibuya Train Station to offer him treats. He **touch**ed the **hearts of the Japanese** people and soon became their **hero**.





# ACTIVITIES



Why are Hachiko's and Selvakumar's stories similar and different? Write your ideas in the box below

Hachiko's Story	Selvakumar's Story

2. Where did Hachiko live?
3. Hidesaburo Ueno was a
4. Was Hachiko a real dog?
5. Where did Hachiko wait for his owner every day?
6. Why did he wait at the station?
7. What happened to Hidesaburo one day?
8. What did the dog do?
9. Why did the dog become famous?
10. Where can we see the statue of Hachiko today?
11. What did Hachiko inspire in Japanese people?

