

SCHOOL LAUNCH · EXPLORE TRACKS

# EXPLORE HORSES AND PONIES

*Track 4 of the Explore Tracks: four trails for children who love horses: the breeds, riding and care, famous horses of history, and great horse stories.*

First edition

*Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?*  
*Job 39:19 (KJV)*

# COURSE GUIDE

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Explore Tracks are for children who want more of what they love. Each track is a set of short stops. At every stop the child hears a true story, studies a great picture, does something with his or her hands, plays a game and adds a page to a Field Notebook.

The Horses track has four trails of eight stops. Trail A meets the breeds, from the desert Arabian to the wild ponies of Assateague. Trail B learns to care for and ride a horse, safely. Trail C meets famous horses of history, from Bucephalus to Secretariat. Trail D reads great horse stories, from *Black Beauty* to *The Black Stallion*, and ends with the child's own illustrated horse story.

## WHO IT IS FOR

Written for children about ages 7-9 who are read to by a parent, or who read short passages on their own. Older siblings can join in. No horse is needed. Nothing earlier is required.

## HOW TO USE THIS COURSE

1. **One stop at a time.** A stop takes 15-25 minutes: read the story aloud, look at the picture, do the hands-on part and play the game. Two or three stops a week works well.
2. **Any order.** The four trails are independent.
3. **Field Notebook.** Every stop ends with a page for the notebook. Each trail builds something: breed cards, a horse-care book, a timeline, or a story book. A parent signs each trail certificate.
4. **Badge quizzes.** Each trail has a short, optional oral quiz. They are for fun, not grades.

## SCOPE AND SEQUENCE

**Trail 1: Horses** 🐾 **Trail A: Meet the Breeds** (Self-paced)

**Trail 2: Horses** 🐾 **Trail B: Riding and Care** (Self-paced)

**Trail 3: Horses** 🐾 **Trail C: Famous Horses in History** (Self-paced)

**Trail 4: Horses** 🐾 **Trail D: Horses in Great Stories** (Self-paced)

## MATERIALS

- **Field Notebook (a sketchbook or composition book)** One for the whole track.
- **Colored pencils, a ruler, scissors, glue and index cards** For cards, maps and posters.
- **A stick horse or broom (optional)** For the riding games.
- **A Bible (KJV)** For the verse at each stop.

## GRADING

Explore Tracks are not graded. A stop is done when the child has heard the story, done the hands-on part and made a notebook page.

Badges and trail certificates are earned by finishing the stops.

## A NOTE TO PARENTS

You do not need to be a horseman. Read the story aloud, look at the picture together and ask, “What do you notice?” Each stop has a short *For families* note with sources and any facts that are uncertain.

Safety: no stop requires a real horse. If you visit a stable, an experienced adult should be present for all handling, and riders should wear a helmet.

Books: *Black Beauty* (1877) is public domain and is quoted. *Misty of Chincoteague*, *King of the Wind* and *The Black Stallion* are under copyright and are summarized; borrow them from the library.

War horses (Waterloo, the Civil War, Korea) are told gently, with no graphic detail. Racing stops do not mention betting.

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Each stop takes 15-25 minutes. Trails may be done in any order.

## HORSES TRAIL A: MEET THE BREEDS

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The first trail of the Horses track meets the horse family: how a pony differs from a horse, the Arabian of the desert, the racing Thoroughbred, the great draft horses, the cowboy's Quarter Horse, the little Shetland and Welsh ponies, the wild ponies of Assateague, and the colors and markings every horseman learns.

This is the ● **Scout** level, for ages 7 to 9. A parent reads the story aloud, or a strong reader reads it alone. Every stop stands by itself. Each stop adds a card to a **breed trading-card set** in the Field Notebook.

Five stops earn the **Horse Scout badge, part 1**; eight stops earn part 2 and the **Trail A certificate**.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Listen to a story of about five minutes and tell it back.
- Measure with a ruler or tape measure (a grown-up may help).

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can measure a horse in hands and say whether it is a horse or a pony.
- ☐ I can name six breeds and tell one true thing about each.
- ☐ I can tell a draft horse from a light riding horse.
- ☐ I can name four horse colors and three face or leg markings.
- ☐ I have made eight breed trading cards.

### OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

- **Kentucky Horse Park: International Museum of the Horse** (<https://kyhorsepark.com>): Breed pages and photos; good for every stop on this trail.
- **Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service)** (<https://www.fws.gov/refuge/chincoteague>): Facts and photos of the Assateague ponies for Stop A7.
- **Marguerite Henry, *Album of Horses* (1951)** (<https://www.worldcat.org>): An old favorite with a chapter on each breed, illustrated by Wesley Dennis. Look for it at the library.

## 1.1 HORSE OR PONY? HANDS AND HEIGHT

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### OBJECTIVES

- Measure in hands (one hand = 4 inches).
- Tell whether an animal is a horse or a pony by its height.
- Know where a horse is measured: at the withers.

**Warm-up.** Lay your hand flat with your fingers together. Ask a grown-up to measure across it. Is it 4 inches yet? Horsemen have measured horses with their hands for hundreds of years.

**Video slot.** Video coming. How horses are measured in hands; horse versus pony. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, Homeschool Pop (Alternate), a Pony Club or 4-H channel); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **hand**

A unit for measuring horses. One hand is 4 inches.

#### **withers**

The highest point of a horse's back, at the base of the neck, between the shoulder blades.

#### **pony**

A small horse, under 14.2 hands tall when grown.

#### **foal**

A baby horse or pony.

### CORE IDEAS

Long ago, before rulers and tape measures were in every house, farmers and traders measured horses with what they always had with them: their hands. They laid one hand above the other, up the horse's front leg and shoulder. Over time the **hand** was fixed at exactly 4 inches. People still use it today.

A horse is measured from the ground to the top of the **withers**, the bump where the neck meets the back. Why not to the top of the head? Because a horse moves its head up and down all the time, but the withers stay in one place.

Heights are written in a funny way. A horse that is 15 hands and 2 inches tall is written **15.2** and said "fifteen-two." The number after the dot is inches, not tenths, so it only goes up to 3. After 15.3 comes 16.0!

So what is a **pony**? Most horsemen say that a grown animal under 14.2 hands (58 inches) is a pony, and 14.2 or taller is a horse. Ponies also tend to have thicker manes, shorter legs,

and wide, clever faces. A **foal** is not a pony; it is a baby, and it will grow.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Horse Fair*, Rosa Bonheur, 1852–1855 · Oil on canvas · The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Rosa Bonheur was a French painter who loved animals. To paint horses well, she went to the horse market in Paris twice a week for a year and a half and made sketch after sketch. The painting is more than 16 feet wide, so the horses are nearly life-size.

### Look closely

- Find the tallest horse. Where are its withers?
- Find a man holding a horse by the head. How does he keep it calm?
- Find the dust. How does it show the horses are moving?

### Talk about it

1. Are these horses or ponies? How can you tell?
2. Why do you think the painter went to the market so many times?

## HANDS-ON: MEASURE YOURSELF IN HANDS

Make a hand-measuring stick and measure your family, a chair and a pet.

### You will need

- A yardstick or a long strip of cardboard
- A ruler and a marker
- Masking tape

## Steps

1. Mark a line every 4 inches on the strip. Number them 1, 2, 3 and up. Each mark is one hand.
2. Tape the stick upright to a door frame with 0 at the floor.
3. Stand with your back to it. Have a grown-up mark the top of your shoulders (your “withers”). How many hands are you?
4. Measure a chair, a dog or a sibling. Write each height the horseman’s way, like 9.2.
5. Make a mark at 14.2 hands. Who in your family is “horse-sized” at the shoulder?

## Check your work

- I made a hand stick with marks every 4 inches.
- I measured at the withers (shoulders).
- I wrote heights the horseman’s way.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 1: Horse or pony?** Draw a horse with a ruler beside it reaching to the withers. Write: “1 hand = 4 inches. Under 14.2 hands = pony.”
2. Write your own height in hands.

**Did you know?** The smallest horses, like the Falabella, can be under 8 hands. The biggest draft horses can be over 18 hands. In many countries, ponies are measured in centimeters too: 14.2 hands is about 147 centimeters. A horse’s height is usually fixed by about age five or six.

**Goes deeper in.** Life Science, “Mammals,” and Gardening & Animals, “Caring for Animals” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: the 14.2-hand line is used by most breed societies and by the Fédération Équestre Internationale (FEI), which measures ponies at 148 cm unshod. Some breeds, such as the Icelandic horse or the Caspian, have their own rules; a few breeds of pony-size animals are called horses because of their build. Heights in hands follow the base-4 convention (15.3, then 16.0).

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** How many inches are in one hand?
2. **EASY** Where is a horse measured to?
3. **MEDIUM** A grown animal is 13.3 hands. Horse or pony?

**Make it a game • Pony or Horse?.** A grown-up calls out heights such as “12.1,” “16.0,” “14.1,” “14.2.” The children gallop in place for a horse or trot with small steps for a pony. Anyone who picks wrong becomes the next caller.

**Scripture.** “Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?” (Job 39:19, KJV)

God asked Job this question to show that He made the horse and its strength. We measure the horse, but God designed it.

**Practice: answers**

1. Four.
2. The withers, the top of the shoulders at the base of the neck.
3. A pony, because it is under 14.2 hands.

## 1.2 THE ARABIAN, HORSE OF THE DESERT

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### OBJECTIVES

- Find the Arabian Peninsula on a map.
- Name three marks of an Arabian: dished face, high tail, great endurance.
- Tell how the Bedouin cared for their horses.

**Warm-up.** Look at a map of the Middle East and find the big desert peninsula of Arabia. What would a horse need to live in a hot, dry place?

**Video slot.** Video coming. The Arabian horse: its history in the desert, its dished face and high tail carriage, endurance riding. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, Arabian Horse Association, Smithsonian); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Arabian**

One of the oldest horse breeds, from the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula.

#### **Bedouin**

Desert people of Arabia who traveled with tents, camels and horses (say “BED-oo-in”).

#### **dished face**

A face that curves inward between the eyes and the nose, like a shallow dish.

#### **endurance**

The strength to keep going for a long time.

### CORE IDEAS

In the deserts of Arabia, the **Bedouin** people lived in tents and moved from place to place to find water and grass for their animals. Their most treasured animals were their horses. A family might keep its best mare inside the tent at night, close to the children, to guard her from cold and from thieves.

Because water and food were scarce, only the strongest, smartest and gentlest horses were kept and bred. Over many generations this made the **Arabian**: a light, quick horse that could cover long miles on little water and stay calm with people.

You can know an Arabian by its looks. It has a small head with a **dished face**, big dark eyes and wide nostrils. Its neck is arched, and when it trots it carries its tail high like a flag. Many Arabians even have one fewer bone in the back than other horses, which gives them a short, strong back.

Traders and soldiers carried Arabians all over the world. Their blood flows in many other breeds, including the Thoroughbred racehorse. Today Arabians are famous in **endurance**

races, where horse and rider travel 50 or even 100 miles in one day.

### PICTURE STUDY



*Arab Horsemen*, Adolf Schreyer, 1800s · Oil on canvas · Reading Public Museum, Pennsylvania  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Adolf Schreyer was a German painter who traveled in North Africa and the Middle East and painted desert riders again and again. He loved to show horses in motion, with tails high and manes flying.

#### Look closely

- Find a horse with its tail held high.
- Find a horse's face. Is it dished?
- What is the weather like? How can you tell?

#### Talk about it

1. What would make a horse good for desert life?
2. How does the painter show speed?

### HANDS-ON: DESERT HORSE TRADING CARD

Make the first full breed card for your set.

#### You will need

- An index card or a 3-by-5-inch piece of cardstock
- Colored pencils
- A gray or white colored pencil

## Steps

1. On the front, draw an Arabian in side view: small dished face, arched neck, tail held high.
2. Color it gray, bay or chestnut.
3. On the back write: Name: Arabian. Home: Arabian desert. Height: about 14.1 to 15.1 hands. Famous for: endurance and gentleness.
4. Add a small star sticker or drawing if the horse would be a good friend for a family.

## Check your work

- My card shows a dished face and high tail.
- The back has home, height and what it is famous for.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 2: Arabian.** Glue or tape your card into the notebook, or keep it in an envelope page.
2. Draw a Bedouin tent with a horse beside it.

**Did you know?** Arabians are often gray. A gray foal is born dark and turns lighter year by year. The Bedouin kept careful family records of their horses, passed down by memory. Arabians usually stand about 14.1 to 15.1 hands, but they are always called horses, never ponies.

**Goes deeper in.** Life Science, "Mammals," and Geography, "The Middle East" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Arabian Horse Association; Britannica. The breed's early history is very old and partly legendary; the stop avoids exact ancient dates. The anatomical point (17 ribs, 5 lumbar vertebrae and fewer tail vertebrae in many, not all, Arabians) is given as "many." Picture: Schreyer, Arab Horsemen, Reading Public Museum (1917.8.1).

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Where do Arabian horses come from?
2. **MEDIUM** Name two ways to know an Arabian by its looks.
3. **MEDIUM** Why did the Bedouin keep only the strongest, gentlest horses?

**Make it a game • Desert March.** Set a "water hole" (a cup of water) at the far end of the yard or room. Children walk in a long line like a caravan, carrying a "water skin" (a plastic bottle). Who can reach the water hole without spilling or stopping?

**Scripture.** "He paweth in the valley, and rejoiceth in his strength: he goeth on to meet the armed men." (Job 39:21, KJV)

This verse comes from God's picture of the horse in Job 39. A brave, eager horse like the Arabian shows the strength God gave it.

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**Practice: answers**

1. The deserts of the Arabian Peninsula.
2. Any two: dished face, big eyes, arched neck, tail carried high, small head.
3. Because water and food were scarce, and they needed horses that could go far and live close to the family.

## 1.3 THE THOROUGHBRED, THE RACEHORSE

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### OBJECTIVES

- Name the three foundation sires of the Thoroughbred.
- Tell what a Thoroughbred is bred for.
- Know the Kentucky Derby, first run in 1875.

**Warm-up.** Have a short race across the yard. What helps a runner go fast: long legs, a deep chest, or lots of practice? Maybe all three!

**Video slot.** Video coming. How Thoroughbred racehorses are bred and trained; the Kentucky Derby and the Kentucky Horse Park. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, Smithsonian, Keeneland or Churchill Downs museum videos); preview first and skip gambling content.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Thoroughbred**

A breed of fast racehorse first bred in England about three hundred years ago.

#### **sire**

A horse's father.

#### **dam**

A horse's mother.

#### **stud book**

A book that records every horse of a breed and its parents.

### CORE IDEAS

About three hundred years ago, English gentlemen loved horse racing. They wanted horses that were even faster. So they brought three famous stallions from the East: the **Byerley Turk**, the **Darley Arabian** and the **Godolphin Arabian**. These three are called the foundation **sires** of the breed.

The stallions were bred with strong English mares. Their foals were raced, and the fastest were chosen to be parents of the next foals. Every one was written down in a **stud book**. The new breed was called the **Thoroughbred**, meaning “bred with care, all the way through.”

A Thoroughbred is tall and lean, often 15.2 to 17 hands, with long legs, a deep chest for big lungs, and a fine coat. It is full of energy and loves to run. Its heart and lungs are very large for its size.

Thoroughbreds came to America in colonial days. The famous **Kentucky Derby** was first run in 1875 at Churchill Downs in Louisville, and it has been run every May since. Thoroughbreds are also used for jumping, fox hunting and police work, and many retired racehorses learn new jobs as riding horses.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Eclipse*, George Stubbs, about 1770 · Oil on canvas · Private and museum collections (several versions)  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Stubbs was an English painter who studied horses more carefully than anyone of his day. He even spent many months studying how a horse's bones and muscles fit together. Eclipse was the most famous racehorse of the 1700s; he was never beaten.

### Look closely

- Find the white blaze on Eclipse's face.
- Look at his legs. Are they long or short?
- Find the shadow. Where is the sun?

### Talk about it

1. What tells you this horse was fast?
2. Why might a painter study bones to paint horses?

## HANDS-ON: FAMILY TREE OF A RACEHORSE

Draw a simple pedigree (family tree) for a pretend racehorse.

### You will need

- Paper and pencil
- A ruler

### Steps

1. Give your pretend foal a name and write it on the left of the page.
2. Draw two lines to the right: the top one is the sire, the bottom one is the dam. Name them.
3. Do the same for each parent, so you have four grandparents.
4. Give one great-grandparent the name Godolphin Arabian or Darley Arabian.
5. Color the box of the fastest horse in your family tree gold.

### Check your work

- My pedigree has sire, dam and four grandparents.
- I can tell what a stud book is for.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 3: Thoroughbred.** Draw a lean, long-legged racehorse. Back: Home: England. Bred for: racing. First Kentucky Derby: 1875.
2. Write the names of the three foundation sires.

**Did you know?** Every Thoroughbred racehorse has the same official birthday: January 1 in the Northern Hemisphere. A Thoroughbred can gallop about 40 miles an hour. More than nine out of ten Thoroughbreds today trace back to the Darley Arabian through his great-great-grandson Eclipse.

**Goes deeper in.** History, “Colonial America,” and Life Science, “Heredity” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Britannica; The Jockey Club; Kentucky Derby Museum (first Derby May 17, 1875, won by Aristides). The Eclipse/Darley line figure (about 95%) comes from a 2005 genetic study (Cunningham et al., Trinity College Dublin) reported widely; it is given as “more than nine out of ten.” Racing involves gambling; this stop does not mention it, and parents should preview any race video.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What is the Thoroughbred bred for?
2. **MEDIUM** Name one of the three foundation sires.
3. **EASY** What is a sire? What is a dam?

**Make it a game • Derby Dash.** Children are “racehorses” lined up at a starting rope. A caller rings a bell, and they race to a finish line. The winner gets a paper rose blanket (the Kentucky Derby is called the “Run for the Roses”).

**Scripture.** “The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.”  
(Proverbs 21:31, KJV)

Horses are trained and prepared with great care, yet the Bible reminds us that the outcome is in God’s hands.

**Practice: answers**

1. Racing (speed).
2. The Byerley Turk, the Darley Arabian or the Godolphin Arabian.
3. A sire is the father; a dam is the mother.

## 1.4 DRAFT HORSES: CLYDESDALE, SHIRE AND PERCHERON

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell what a draft horse is.
- Name three draft breeds and the country each comes from.
- Tell how draft horses helped farms and towns before tractors.

**Warm-up.** Try to pull a wagon or a box full of books across the floor with a rope. Now try with two people pulling together. That is the work of a draft horse team.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Draft horses at work: Clydesdales, Shires and Percherons plowing and pulling wagons. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, Smithsonian, Colonial Williamsburg, a living-history farm channel); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **draft horse**

A big, strong horse bred to pull heavy loads (say “draft” like “raft”).

#### **feathers**

The long hair on the lower legs of some draft horses.

#### **team**

Two or more horses harnessed to pull together.

#### **plow**

A tool pulled through the ground to turn the soil for planting.

### CORE IDEAS

Before tractors and trucks, the strongest workers on many farms were **draft horses**. They pulled plows, wagons of hay, logs from the woods and carts of goods through city streets. A good team could work all day, patiently and steadily.

The **Clydesdale** comes from the valley of the River Clyde in Scotland. It is usually bay with white legs, and it has long white **feathers** that swish as it walks. The **Shire** comes from the middle counties, or shires, of England. It is one of the tallest horses in the world, often 17 hands or more.

The **Percheron** comes from the region of Le Perche in France. It is usually gray or black, with little feather on its legs. Thousands of Percherons were brought to American farms in the 1800s.

Draft horses are huge, often weighing 1,800 to 2,000 pounds or more, but most are known as “gentle giants.” Some families still farm with them today, and they pull wagons in parades and at fairs.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Ploughing in the Nivernais*, Rosa Bonheur, 1849 · Oil on canvas · Musée d'Orsay, Paris  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Before draft horses became common on French farms, oxen pulled many plows. Rosa Bonheur painted these teams turning the soil in autumn. Look at how the animals lean into the yoke together. Draft horses worked the same way, side by side in a team.

### Look closely

- Find the furrows, the long lines of turned soil.
- Find the farmer guiding each team.
- Count the animals in the front team.

### Talk about it

1. Why does a team pull better than one animal alone?
2. What would a farmer need to do to care for his team after a long day?

## HANDS-ON: TEAM PULL TEST

See how much more a team can pull than one “horse.”

### You will need

- A small box or toy wagon
- Books or cans for a load
- Rubber bands and string
- A ruler

## Steps

1. Tie a string to the box with a rubber band in the middle of the string.
2. Load the box with two books. Pull it slowly with one string and measure how far the rubber band stretches.
3. Now tie two strings with two rubber bands and pull with both. How far does each band stretch?
4. Add more books. When does one string struggle?
5. Draw a team of two draft horses pulling the box.

## Check your work

- I measured the stretch with one and two pullers.
- I can say why teams were used for heavy work.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed cards 4, 5 and 6: Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron.** Make three small cards, each with a drawing and its home country: Scotland, England, France.
2. Draw feathers on the Clydesdale's legs.

**Did you know?** A Shire named Sampson, foaled in England in 1846, is often said to be the tallest horse on record, at over 21 hands. A team of Clydesdales has pulled a famous red beer wagon in American parades since 1933. A draft horse can eat 25 to 30 pounds of hay a day.

**Goes deeper in.** History, "Life on the Farm," and Small Business & Economics, "Tools and Work" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Clydesdale Horse Society; Shire Horse Society; Percheron Horse Association of America; Britannica. Sampson (later Mammoth), foaled 1846, measured 21.2½ hands per Guinness; given as "often said." The 1933 parade team is Anheuser-Busch's; the stop avoids naming the brand. "Gee" and "haw" are the traditional American teamster commands for right and left. The picture shows oxen, which preceded horses in much French plowing; Bonheur's Ploughing in the Nivernais is in the Musée d'Orsay.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What is a draft horse bred for?
2. **MEDIUM** Match each breed to its country: Clydesdale, Shire, Percheron.
3. **EASY** What are feathers on a horse?

**Make it a game • Plow the Field.** Two children are a team, holding a jump rope as a "harness." A third is the farmer behind them, holding the rope ends. The team must walk straight furrows across the yard following the farmer's "Gee" (right) and "Haw" (left).

**Scripture.** “Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.” (Proverbs 14:4, KJV)

A barn without working animals stays tidy, but the farm grows little. Strong animals like oxen and draft horses bring a good harvest, though they take work to keep.

**Practice: answers**

1. Pulling heavy loads.
2. Clydesdale: Scotland. Shire: England. Percheron: France.
3. Long hair on the lower legs.

## 1.5 THE AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE AND THE COWBOY

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell why the Quarter Horse got its name.
- Explain “cow sense.”
- Name some jobs of a cowboy’s horse.

**Warm-up.** Run a short race of about twenty steps, then a long race around the yard. Are you faster at the short one or the long one? The Quarter Horse is a champion sprinter.

**Video slot.** Video coming. The American Quarter Horse: ranch work, cutting cattle and its history. Search approved channels (American Quarter Horse Association, Kentucky Horse Park, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### Quarter Horse

An American breed famous for speed in short races and for working cattle.

#### sprint

A short, very fast run.

#### cow sense

A horse’s natural skill at reading and moving cattle.

#### ranch

A large farm where cattle or horses are raised.

### CORE IDEAS

In colonial Virginia and the Carolinas, settlers loved to race their horses down a short, straight road or a village street, about a quarter of a mile long. The quick, muscular horses that won these races came to be called **Quarter Horses**. Over a quarter mile, no breed is faster.

As Americans moved west, the Quarter Horse went with them. On the cattle **ranches** of Texas and the plains, cowboys needed a horse that could start fast, stop short and turn on a dime. The Quarter Horse was just right.

The best ranch horses have **cow sense**. When a cowboy rides into a herd to separate one calf, his horse watches the calf and moves with it, left and right, almost before the rider asks. Cowboys say a good cow horse “thinks like a cow.”

A cowboy’s horse carried him on long cattle drives, helped him rope calves and stood patiently while he worked. A cowboy often cared for his horse before himself, because his life

and work depended on it. The American Quarter Horse Association was founded in 1940, and today the Quarter Horse is the most numerous breed in the world.

## PICTURE STUDY



*A Dash for the Timber*, Frederic Remington, 1889 · Oil on canvas · Amon Carter Museum of American Art, Fort Worth  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Frederic Remington traveled the American West and painted cowboys, soldiers and horses. In this painting a group of cowboys gallops for the shelter of the trees. Look at the horses' legs: Remington studied photographs to learn how horses really gallop.

### Look closely

- Count the horses.
- Find a horse with all four feet off the ground.
- Look at the riders' hats and clothes. What would they need on the range?

### Talk about it

1. How does the painter make you feel the speed?
2. Why would a cowboy need a horse that could start fast?

## HANDS-ON: COW-SENSE CUTTING GAME

Play the cowboy's cutting job with a ball for a calf.

### You will need

- A soft ball (the calf)

- Four cones or shoes to mark a pen
- A partner

### Steps

1. Mark a small pen with the cones.
2. One person is the calf, rolling the ball, trying to get it past you to the “herd.”
3. You are the cow horse. Stay in front of the ball, moving left and right, low and quick, to keep it away from the herd.
4. Switch places. What did the best cow horse do with its eyes?

### Check your work

- I moved left and right to block the “calf.”
- I can explain what cow sense means.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 7: Quarter Horse.** Draw a stocky, muscular horse with a cowboy saddle. Back: Home: America. Famous for: sprinting and cow sense.
2. Write three jobs of a cowboy’s horse.

**Did you know?** Quarter Horses can sprint up to about 55 miles an hour over a short distance. A cowboy’s saddle horse was often called his “cow pony,” even when it was horse-sized. Cowboys on long cattle drives often had several horses each, called the “remuda.”

**Goes deeper in.** History, “The American West” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: American Quarter Horse Association (founded 1940; largest breed registry in the world); Britannica; National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum. Speed is given as “up to about 55 mph,” the figure AQHA and others cite for short sprints. Remington’s A Dash for the Timber (1889) is at the Amon Carter Museum.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** How did the Quarter Horse get its name?
2. **MEDIUM** What is cow sense?
3. **MEDIUM** Why did a cowboy care for his horse first?

**Make it a game • Quick Stop.** Children “gallop” across the yard. When the caller shouts “Whoa!” they must stop and stand still like a well-trained cow horse. Anyone who keeps moving trots back to the start.

**Scripture.** “He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: he taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his

mercy.” (Psalm 147:10-11, KJV)

A Quarter Horse is strong and fast, but God is most pleased by people who trust and hope in Him.

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**Practice: answers**

1. It won races about a quarter mile long.
2. A horse’s natural skill at reading and moving cattle.
3. His work and safety depended on it.

## 1.6 SHETLAND AND WELSH PONIES

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### OBJECTIVES

- Find the Shetland Islands and Wales on a map.
- Tell how ponies are made for hard weather.
- Name two jobs ponies have done.

**Warm-up.** Find the Shetland Islands on a map, far north of Scotland. What do you think the weather is like there in winter?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Shetland ponies in the Shetland Islands and Welsh ponies in the hills of Wales. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, BBC Earth vetted per video, a Pony Club channel); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Shetland pony**

A very small, tough pony from the Shetland Islands of Scotland.

#### **Welsh pony**

A hardy, handsome pony breed from the hills of Wales.

#### **hardy**

Tough and able to live through cold, wind and poor food.

#### **pit pony**

A pony that worked underground in coal mines long ago.

### CORE IDEAS

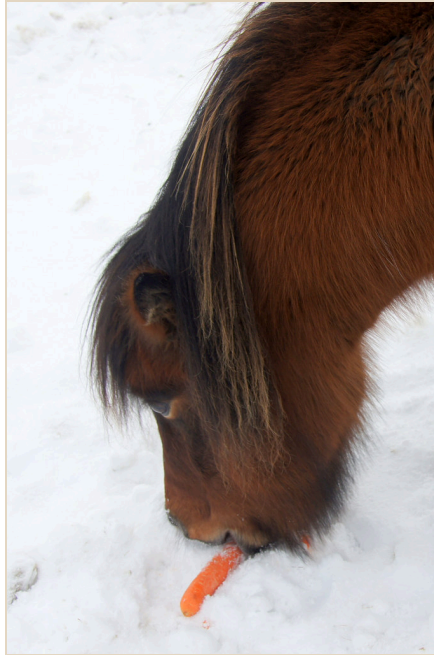
Far north of Scotland lie the Shetland Islands, windy and treeless, with long, dark winters. Ponies have lived there for a very long time. With little grass and much wind, only small, tough ponies could survive. These became the **Shetland pony**.

A Shetland is usually no more than about 42 inches tall, but it is very strong for its size. It grows a thick double coat in winter and a long mane and tail that shed the rain. Islanders used Shetlands to carry peat for their fires and seaweed for their fields.

In the 1800s, many Shetlands went to work in coal mines as **pit ponies**, pulling small carts of coal through low tunnels. Later, they became favorite first ponies for children.

In the green hills and mountains of Wales lives the **Welsh pony**. It is **hardy** too, but a little taller and very handsome, with a pretty head, bright eyes and a lively trot. There are four sizes, from the small Welsh Mountain Pony to the strong Welsh Cob, which can carry a grown man.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Shetland pony*, Photograph, modern · Photograph · Wikimedia Commons  
Photo: Mike Pennington · [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This is a photograph of a Shetland pony. Look at its thick coat, short legs and long mane. All of these help it stay warm and dry in the wind and rain of the islands.

### Look closely

- Find the forelock, the hair that hangs over the face.
- Look at the thick, shaggy coat.
- What is on the ground? What season is it?

### Talk about it

1. How is this pony made for cold, windy weather?
2. How is it different from the racehorse Eclipse?

## HANDS-ON: WEATHER-PROOF PONY COAT

Test why a thick coat keeps a pony warm and dry.

### You will need

- Two small jars or cups of warm water
- Cotton balls or a scrap of wool or fleece
- Rubber bands
- A thermometer (optional)

### Steps

1. Wrap one jar in a thick layer of cotton or wool and hold it with rubber bands. Leave the other bare.
2. Set both jars in a cool place for 20 minutes.
3. Feel each one (or use a thermometer). Which stayed warmer?
4. Sprinkle a few drops of water on the wool. Does the inside get wet right away?
5. Draw a Shetland in its winter coat.

#### Check your work

- I tested a “coat” on a jar.
- I can tell how a thick coat helps a pony.

#### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed cards 8 and 9: Shetland and Welsh.** Draw each pony. Back: Home: Shetland Islands / Wales. Size: small / small to medium. Famous for: strength / beauty and hardiness.

**Did you know?** For its size, a Shetland pony is one of the strongest of all horses and ponies. Shetland ponies in Britain are measured in inches, not hands. Welsh ponies are grouped in the stud book as Sections A, B, C and D.

**Goes deeper in.** Geography, “The British Isles,” and Life Science, “Adaptations” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Shetland Pony Stud-Book Society (height limit 42 in/107 cm at three years and over); Welsh Pony and Cob Society (Sections A–D). Pit ponies: Shetlands were used in British mines especially after the 1842 Mines Act restricted child labor underground; the stop keeps it simple. Picture is a modern photograph; license is listed in build/pics.json.

#### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Where do Shetland ponies come from?
2. **MEDIUM** Name two ways a Shetland is made for hard weather.
3. **EASY** What were pit ponies?

**Make it a game • Pony Pack Race.** Each child carries a backpack with a few soft “peat bricks” (rolled socks) to a “cottage” across the room and back. The pony who delivers all the peat without dropping any wins.

**Scripture.** “O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.” (Psalm 104:24, KJV)

From the desert Arabian to the island Shetland, God made animals of every size, each fitted to its place.

---

**Practice: answers**

1. The Shetland Islands, north of Scotland.
2. Any two: thick double coat, long mane and tail, small size, strong body, can live on little food.
3. Ponies that worked in coal mines pulling carts.

## 1.7 THE CHINCOTEAGUE PONY AND THE ASSATEAGUE HERD

### OBJECTIVES

- Find Assateague and Chincoteague Islands on a map of Virginia and Maryland.
- Tell how the wild ponies live on a barrier island.
- Describe the yearly Pony Swim.

**Warm-up.** Find Virginia and Maryland on a map. Follow the Atlantic coast to a long, thin island called Assateague. Can you find the smaller island of Chincoteague beside it?

**Video slot.** Video coming. The Chincoteague Pony Swim and the wild ponies of Assateague. Search the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Park Service (Assateague Island National Seashore) and the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **barrier island**

A long, sandy island that lies along a coast and protects the mainland from waves.

#### **herd**

A group of horses or ponies that live together.

#### **marsh**

Low, wet land with grasses growing in shallow water.

#### **Pony Swim**

The yearly event when ponies swim across a channel from Assateague to Chincoteague.

### CORE IDEAS

On Assateague, a long **barrier island** off the coast of Maryland and Virginia, wild ponies have lived for hundreds of years. Nobody knows for sure how they got there. An old story says they swam ashore from a Spanish ship wrecked in a storm. Others think colonial farmers let them graze there to avoid fences and taxes.

Life on the island is not easy. The ponies eat tough **marsh** grasses and drink from freshwater ponds. Mosquitoes buzz in summer, and storms blow in from the sea. Because they eat salty grass, the ponies drink a lot of water, which makes them look round and fat.

A fence divides the island. On the Maryland side, the National Park Service watches over one **herd**. On the Virginia side, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company owns the ponies and cares for them, keeping the herd to about 150 so there is enough to eat.

Every July, since 1925, “saltwater cowboys” round up the Virginia ponies. At slack tide, when the water is still, the ponies swim across the narrow channel to Chincoteague. Thousands of

people watch. Some foals are sold at auction to raise money for the fire company and to keep the herd healthy. The rest swim home.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Assateague pony and foal*, Photograph, modern · Photograph · Assateague Island

Photo: Acroterion · [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This photograph shows the wild ponies at home in the marsh. Look for the patchy pinto coats and the round bellies that come from drinking so much water.

### Look closely

- Find a pinto pony.
- Find water. Is it fresh or salt?
- What are the ponies eating?

### Talk about it

1. What would be hard about living on this island?
2. Why do people keep the herd to about 150?

## HANDS-ON: MAP THE PONY SWIM

Draw a map of the two islands and the swim.

### You will need

- Paper, pencil and colored pencils
- A printed map or atlas to copy from

## Steps

1. Draw the long, thin island of Assateague along the coast. Color the ocean blue on the right side.
2. Draw the smaller Chincoteague Island to the left (west) of the south end.
3. Draw the narrow channel between them and an arrow for the Pony Swim.
4. Draw the fence line between Maryland and Virginia and label each side.
5. Add a compass rose and a title: "The Pony Swim."

## Check your work

- My map shows both islands, the channel and the fence.
- I can tell the story of the swim in three sentences.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 10: Chincoteague pony.** Draw a pinto pony with a round belly. Back: Home: Assateague Island. Famous for: the Pony Swim every July.
2. Glue in your Pony Swim map.

**Did you know?** The swim across the channel usually takes only a few minutes. Chincoteague ponies are often pinto, with big patches of color. Because of the famous book *Misty of Chincoteague* (see Trail D), people come from all over the world to watch.

**Goes deeper in.** Geography, "The Atlantic Coast," and Life Science, "Habitats" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge; National Park Service, Assateague Island National Seashore; Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. The swim is usually the last Wednesday of July; the first official Pony Penning carnival and swim with the fire company was 1925 (penning itself is older). The Spanish galleon origin is a legend; the NPS considers colonial grazing the likeliest origin. Herd size on the Virginia side is capped by permit at about 150 adults.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Where do the Chincoteague ponies live?
2. **MEDIUM** Why do the ponies look round and fat?
3. **MEDIUM** Who cares for the ponies on the Virginia side?

**Make it a game • Slack Tide.** One child is the "tide." When the tide says "Rushing!" the ponies must stay on shore. When the tide says "Slack!" the ponies may "swim" (crawl or walk) across the channel. Anyone who starts on "Rushing" goes back.

**Scripture.** "He sendeth the springs into the valleys, which run among the hills. They give drink to every beast of the field: the wild asses quench their thirst." (Psalm 104:10-11,

KJV)

God provides water for wild animals, even on a sandy island by the sea.

---

**Practice: answers**

1. On Assateague Island, off Maryland and Virginia.
2. They drink lots of water because they eat salty marsh grass.
3. The Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company.

## 1.8 COLORS AND MARKINGS

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### OBJECTIVES

- Name five horse colors: bay, chestnut, black, gray and palomino.
- Name face markings (star, blaze, snip) and leg markings (sock, stocking).
- Describe a horse by its color and markings.

**Warm-up.** Look at a picture of a horse. If you had to tell a friend which horse it was without showing the picture, what words would you use?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Horse colors and markings explained: bay, chestnut, palomino, star, blaze, sock. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, a Pony Club or 4-H channel, Homeschool Pop (Alternate)); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **bay**

A brown or reddish-brown body with black mane, tail and lower legs.

#### **chestnut**

A reddish or coppery coat with a mane and tail of the same or lighter color.

#### **palomino**

A golden coat with a white or cream mane and tail.

#### **blaze**

A wide white stripe down the face.

### CORE IDEAS

Horsemen describe a horse by its **color** and its **markings**, the white patches on its face and legs. Papers for a horse often include a drawing of every marking, like a fingerprint, so that horse can always be known.

Here are some colors. A **bay** has a brown body with black “points”: mane, tail and lower legs. A **chestnut** is red or copper all over, with no black. A **black** horse is black all over. A **gray** is born dark and turns whiter as it ages. A **palomino** is golden with a white or cream mane and tail. A **pinto** has big patches of white and another color.

Now the face. A **star** is a white spot on the forehead. A **snip** is a little white patch on the nose. A **stripe** is a thin white line down the face, and a **blaze** is a wide one. A **bald face** is mostly white.

And the legs. A **sock** is white that comes partway up the leg, and a **stocking** goes up to the knee or higher. So you might say, “a bay with a star and two white socks.” Now anyone can find that horse in a field!

## PICTURE STUDY



*Whistlejacket*, George Stubbs, about 1762 · Oil on canvas · The National Gallery, London  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Stubbs painted this horse, Whistlejacket, almost life-size, with no background at all, so that nothing takes your eyes away from the horse. Whistlejacket was a famous racehorse with Arabian blood.

### Look closely

- What color is Whistlejacket? Look at his mane and tail too.
- Does he have any white markings?
- Why do you think there is no background?

### Talk about it

1. How would you describe Whistlejacket in horseman's words?
2. What feeling do you get from this painting?

## HANDS-ON: MARKINGS MATCHING CARDS

Make cards to learn the colors and markings.

### You will need

- Eight index cards
- Colored pencils (brown, black, red-orange, gold, gray)

### Steps

1. On four cards, draw a horse's head with a star, a snip, a stripe and a blaze. Label each on the back.
2. On four cards, draw a horse in bay, chestnut, palomino and gray. Label each on the back.
3. Shuffle and play: a partner holds up a card, and you name it.
4. Draw your dream horse and describe it: color, face marking and leg markings.

#### Check your work

- I made eight cards.
- I can name what is on each card.

#### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Breed card 11: My dream horse.** Draw and color your own horse. Write its description: "A \_\_\_ with a \_\_\_ and \_\_\_."
2. Make a list of the colors and markings you learned.

**Did you know?** Gray horses are born dark. Some are almost black as foals and almost white as old horses. A white horse with dark skin underneath is usually called gray, not white. Eclipse in Stop A3 was a chestnut with a blaze and one white stocking.

**Goes deeper in.** Life Science, "Heredity: Why Foals Look Like Their Parents" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: American Quarter Horse Association color chart; Kentucky Horse Park; Britannica. The Eclipse description (chestnut, blaze, white off-hind stocking) follows standard accounts. Whistlejacket (about 1762) hangs in the National Gallery, London. Revelation 19:11 is also used in Trail C, Stop C2.

#### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What color is a bay horse?
2. **EASY** What is a blaze?
3. **MEDIUM** What is the difference between a sock and a stocking?

**Make it a game • Find My Horse.** Lay out pictures of horses (from books or printouts). One player describes a horse only by color and markings. The others race to point to the right one.

**Scripture.** "And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war." (Revelation 19:11, KJV)

In John's vision, Jesus rides a white horse and is called Faithful and True. Colors in the Bible can carry meaning; white often stands for purity and victory.

---

**Practice: answers**

1. A brown body with black mane, tail and lower legs.
2. A wide white stripe down the face.
3. A sock is a shorter white marking; a stocking goes up to the knee or higher.

# TRAIL 1 BADGE QUIZ

---

The badge quiz is optional. Read each question aloud; the child may answer by talking, pointing or drawing. Four right out of five earns the first badge; three right out of four earns the second. Badges and the certificate are earned by doing the stops, not by scores.

## **Badge quiz 1 (Stops 1-5)**

1. How many inches are in one hand?
2. Where do Arabian horses come from?
3. What breed runs in the Kentucky Derby?
4. Name one draft horse breed.
5. Why is the Quarter Horse called that?

## **Badge quiz 2 (Stops 6-8)**

6. Where do Shetland ponies come from?
7. Which island do the wild ponies swim to every July?
8. What color is a palomino?
9. What is a star?

## **TRAIL CERTIFICATE: MY BREED TRADING CARDS AND TRAIL A CERTIFICATE**

Gather your breed cards into a set or an envelope page: "My Horse Breed Cards," with your name and dates.

Choose one breed you would most like to ride and tell or write why.

When the set is done, a parent signs the Trail A certificate.

- **Cards:** A card for each stop, with a drawing and facts on the back.
- **Measuring:** The child can measure in hands and say horse or pony.
- **Telling:** The child can describe a horse by color and markings.
- **Care:** Drawings are neat and labeled.

### **Answer key**

1. Four.
2. The deserts of Arabia.
3. The Thoroughbred.
4. Clydesdale, Shire or Percheron.
5. It won races about a quarter mile long.
6. The Shetland Islands, north of Scotland.
7. Chincoteague.
8. Golden, with a white or cream mane and tail.
9. A white spot on a horse's forehead.

## HORSES TRAIL B: RIDING AND CARE

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The second trail of the Horses track learns how horsemen care for and ride their horses: the parts of the horse, tack, grooming, hooves and the farrier, feeding, the four gaits, safety, and the styles of riding.

This is the  **Scout** level, for ages 7 to 9. No horse is needed: every stop works with paper, toys and a stick horse. If a family can visit a stable, the stops make good preparation, always with an experienced adult.

The trail builds a **horse-care chart** and a **parts-of-the-horse poster**. Five stops earn the **Horse Care badge, part 1**; eight earn part 2 and the **Trail B certificate**.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Listen to a story of about five minutes and tell it back.
- Trail A is helpful but not required.

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can label ten parts of a horse.
- ☐ I can name the parts of a saddle and bridle.
- ☐ I can list the grooming tools in order.
- ☐ I can tell what a horse eats and drinks each day.
- ☐ I can name the four gaits and three safety rules.

### OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

- **United States Pony Clubs** (<https://www.ponyclub.org>): Learning materials on horse care and safety for young riders.
- **4-H Horse Program (your state's extension office)** (<https://4-h.org>): Free horse project books and local clubs.
- **Kentucky Horse Park** (<https://kyhorsepark.com>): Videos and pictures of tack, grooming and the farrier.

## 2.1 PARTS OF THE HORSE

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### OBJECTIVES

- Label ten parts of a horse.
- Find the withers, hock, fetlock and hoof.
- Make a parts-of-the-horse poster.

**Warm-up.** Point to your own forehead, neck, shoulder, knee, ankle and heel. A horse has all of these too, but some have funny names.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Parts of the horse labeled: muzzle, withers, hock, fetlock, pastern, hoof. Search approved channels (a Pony Club or 4-H channel, Kentucky Horse Park); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **muzzle**

A horse's nose, mouth and chin.

#### **fetlock**

The joint just above the hoof at the back, like an ankle.

#### **hock**

The big joint halfway up the back leg; it bends backward, like a person's heel lifting.

#### **crest**

The top line of the neck, where the mane grows.

### CORE IDEAS

Every horseman learns the parts of the horse, so that he can tell a vet, a farrier or a friend exactly where a horse is hurt or what needs care.

Start at the front. The soft **muzzle** holds the nostrils and lips. Above it is the face and the **forelock**, hair that falls over the forehead. The ears turn to listen. The **crest** of the neck holds the mane.

Along the top are the **withers** (where a horse is measured), the back, the loins and the croup, ending at the tail. Underneath is the barrel, the round middle where the ribs are.

Down the legs, a horse's "knee" on the front leg is really like our wrist. The **hock** on the back leg is like our heel. Low down is the **fetlock**, then the short pastern and the hard **hoof**. A horse really stands on the tip of one big toe on each foot!

## PICTURE STUDY



*Hambletonian, Rubbing Down*, George Stubbs, 1800 · Oil on canvas · Mount Stewart, National Trust, Northern Ireland  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Stubbs painted Hambletonian just after a hard race. The groom is rubbing him down to cool and dry him. Because Stubbs knew horse anatomy so well, you can see the muscles, veins and bones of the legs.

### Look closely

- Find the withers, the hock and the fetlock.
- Find the groom's cloth. What is he doing?
- Look at the horse's ribs and veins. What do they tell you about the race?

### Talk about it

1. Why do you think the horse needs care after the race?
2. How did knowing anatomy help Stubbs?

## HANDS-ON: PARTS-OF-THE-HORSE POSTER

Make a large labeled poster to keep for the whole trail.

### You will need

- Large paper or poster board
- A pencil, markers and a ruler
- A horse picture to copy (or trace)

## Steps

1. Draw a big horse in side view.
2. Use a ruler to draw label lines from ten parts: muzzle, forelock, ear, crest, withers, back, croup, hock, fetlock, hoof.
3. Write each name neatly at the end of its line.
4. Color the horse a real horse color from Trail A.
5. Hang it on the wall and quiz your family.

## Check your work

- My poster has ten labels.
- I can point to each part without looking at the word.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw a small horse and label five parts from memory.
2. Write: "A horse stands on one big toe on each foot."

**Did you know?** A horse's eyes are among the largest of any land mammal. Horses can move each ear separately to listen in two directions. The hard hoof wall is made of the same stuff as your fingernails.

**Goes deeper in.** Life Science, "Mammals: Skeleton and Muscles" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: United States Pony Clubs manual; 4-H horse project books. The hoof wall is keratin. Hambletonian, Rubbing Down (1800) belongs to the National Trust at Mount Stewart.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What is the muzzle?
2. **MEDIUM** What part of a person is the horse's hock like?
3. **EASY** What is the hoof made of?

**Make it a game • Horse Says.** Like "Simon Says": the caller says "Horse says touch your withers!" or "Horse says touch your fetlock!" Players touch the matching place on themselves (back of neck, ankle). Without "Horse says," don't move!

**Scripture.** "Hast thou given the horse strength? hast thou clothed his neck with thunder?" (Job 39:19, KJV)

God made every part of the horse, from its mane to its hooves.

**Practice: answers**

1. The nose, mouth and chin.
2. The heel (ankle) of the back leg.
3. The same stuff as fingernails.

## 2.2 TACK: SADDLE, BRIDLE AND BIT

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### OBJECTIVES

- Name the parts of a saddle and bridle.
- Tell what the bit and reins are for.
- Know that tack must fit and be kept clean.

**Warm-up.** Have you ever worn a backpack that did not fit? Where did it rub? Saddles must fit horses just as well.

**Video slot.** Video coming. How to tack up a horse: saddle pad, saddle, girth, bridle and bit. Search approved channels (a Pony Club or 4-H channel, Kentucky Horse Park); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **tack**

The equipment a horse wears for riding: saddle, bridle and the rest.

#### **bridle**

The straps on a horse's head that hold the bit and reins.

#### **bit**

A metal bar that rests in the horse's mouth in a gap where it has no teeth.

#### **girth**

The strap under the horse's belly that holds the saddle on (called a cinch in Western riding).

### CORE IDEAS

Everything a horse wears for riding is called **tack**. The room in a barn where it is kept is the tack room, and it often smells of leather and saddle soap.

First comes a soft saddle pad, then the saddle. The rider sits in the seat and puts his feet in the stirrups. The **girth** goes under the horse's belly and buckles on to hold the saddle in place.

On the horse's head goes the **bridle**. The **bit** rests in the horse's mouth in a gap called the bars, where there are no teeth. The reins are fastened to the bit. When the rider gently moves the reins, the horse feels it and turns or slows.

Tack must fit well, or it can rub sores. A good rider cleans his tack with saddle soap after riding, checks the stitching, and hangs it up. Good care keeps the horse comfortable and the rider safe.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Saddle and bridle*, Photograph, modern · Photograph · Wikimedia Commons  
Photo: Shazz · [CC BY-SA 2.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This photograph shows a horse “tacked up,” ready to ride. Find each piece of tack you learned about.

### Look closely

- Find the bridle, the reins and the bit.
- Find the saddle, the stirrups and the girth.
- Is the horse calm? How can you tell?

### Talk about it

1. Why must tack fit well?
2. Which piece of tack would you clean first?

**Safety first.** Horses are large animals. Do hands-on horse activities only with an experienced adult present. Paper, toy and pretend activities are fine at home.

## HANDS-ON: TACK UP A STICK HORSE

Make tack for a stick horse or a stuffed animal.

### You will need

- A stick horse, a broom or a stuffed animal
- Ribbon or yarn

- Felt or cardboard
- Tape or safety pins

### Steps

1. Cut a saddle pad and a saddle shape from felt or cardboard.
2. Use a ribbon as a girth to hold the saddle on.
3. Make a bridle from yarn loops around the head, with a pipe-cleaner bit and ribbon reins.
4. Label each piece with a small tag.
5. Ride your horse around the yard, then “untack” and put everything away neatly.

### Check your work

- My horse has a saddle, girth, bridle, bit and reins.
- I put the tack away neatly.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw a saddle and a bridle. Label: seat, stirrup, girth, bit, reins.
2. Write one rule for caring for tack.

**Did you know?** Stirrups were not always used. They came into wide use in Europe in the early Middle Ages. A Western saddle has a horn in front for holding a rope. A bridle without a bit is called a hackamore.

**Goes deeper in.** Gardening & Animals, “Caring for Animals” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: United States Pony Clubs manual; 4-H. The stirrup reached Europe by about the 8th century; stated generally. Picture is a modern photograph; license in build/pics.json.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What is tack?
2. **MEDIUM** Where does the bit rest?
3. **EASY** What holds the saddle on?

**Make it a game • Tack Room Relay.** Put tack pieces (labeled cards or real items) in a pile. Call out a piece; the first child to bring it back and say what it does gets a point.

**Scripture.** “Behold, we put bits in the horses’ mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.” (James 3:3, KJV)

James says a small bit can turn a big horse, just as a small tongue can steer a whole life. Use your words carefully.

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**Practice: answers**

1. The equipment a horse wears for riding.
2. In a gap in the horse's mouth where there are no teeth.
3. The girth (or cinch).

## 2.3 GROOMING, STEP BY STEP

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Name the main grooming tools.
- Put grooming steps in order.
- Tell why grooming matters.

**Warm-up.** How do you get ready in the morning? Brush hair, wash face... Horses need grooming too, and they usually love it.

**Video slot.** Video coming. How to groom a horse: curry comb, dandy brush, body brush, hoof pick. Search approved channels (a Pony Club or 4-H channel, Kentucky Horse Park); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **curry comb**

A rubber comb used in circles to loosen dirt and hair.

#### **dandy brush**

A stiff brush that flicks away the loosened dirt.

#### **body brush**

A soft brush that makes the coat shine.

#### **hoof pick**

A hook for cleaning mud and stones out of the hooves.

### CORE IDEAS

Grooming keeps a horse clean and healthy. It also gives the groom a chance to check for cuts, bumps or loose shoes, and it builds trust between horse and person.

Step 1: the **curry comb**. Rub it in small circles all over the horse's body (not the face or legs) to loosen dirt and dead hair. Step 2: the **dandy brush**. Brush with short flicks in the direction the hair grows.

Step 3: the **body brush**, soft, for a shine and for the face. Step 4: comb the mane and tail gently, starting at the bottom. Always stand beside the tail, never right behind the horse.

Step 5: the **hoof pick**. Run your hand down the leg, ask the horse to lift its foot, and pick out mud and stones from heel to toe. Last, a soft cloth to wipe the eyes and nose. A well-groomed horse shines!

## PICTURE STUDY



*Inside of a Stable*, George Morland, 1791 · Oil on canvas · The National Gallery, London  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Morland painted country life in England, including stables like this one. Look for the tools and the care the stable boy gives.

### Look closely

- Find the hay or the manger.
- Find the stable boy. What is he doing?
- Is the stable tidy or messy?

### Talk about it

1. What jobs must be done every day in a stable?
2. How would you feel working here?

**Safety first.** Horses are large animals. Do hands-on horse activities only with an experienced adult present. Paper, toy and pretend activities are fine at home.

## HANDS-ON: GROOMING-KIT CHECKLIST

Make a checklist card for a grooming kit.

### You will need

- An index card or paper
- Markers

- Optional: a real brush and comb, and a stuffed animal

### Steps

1. Write the title: "My Grooming Kit."
2. List the tools in order: 1 curry comb, 2 dandy brush, 3 body brush, 4 mane comb, 5 hoof pick, 6 soft cloth.
3. Draw a tiny picture by each.
4. Practice on a stuffed animal in the right order.
5. Check off each step as you do it.

### Check your work

- My checklist has six tools in order.
- I practiced the steps.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Tape in your grooming checklist.
2. Write the safety rule: "Stand beside the tail, never behind."

**Did you know?** Horses groom each other by nibbling each other's withers. Many horses love being scratched on the withers best of all. In spring horses shed their thick winter coats, and the curry comb fills with hair.

**Goes deeper in.** Gardening & Animals, "Caring for Animals" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: United States Pony Clubs manual; 4-H. George Morland's Inside of a Stable (1791) is in the National Gallery, London.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Which tool loosens dirt in circles?
2. **EASY** What is a hoof pick for?
3. **MEDIUM** Name one reason grooming matters besides looking nice.

**Make it a game • Grooming Order.** Give each child a card with one tool on it. Can the group line up in the right grooming order in under 30 seconds?

**Scripture.** "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds." (Proverbs 27:23, KJV)

A good shepherd or horseman pays close attention to his animals. Grooming is a daily way to "look well" to them.

### Practice: answers

1. The curry comb.
2. Cleaning mud and stones from the hooves.
3. Checking for cuts or loose shoes, building trust, keeping skin healthy.

## 2.4 HOOVES AND THE FARRIER

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Tell what a farrier does.
- Explain the saying “No hoof, no horse.”
- Name the frog and the hoof wall.

**Warm-up.** Look at your fingernails. They grow and must be trimmed. A horse’s hooves grow too, about a quarter inch a month.

**Video slot.** Video coming. A farrier at work: trimming and shoeing a horse. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, a farrier school or American Farrier’s Association channel, a living-history farm); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **farrier**

A craftsman who trims hooves and fits horseshoes.

#### **horseshoe**

A U-shaped piece of metal nailed to the hoof wall to protect it.

#### **frog**

The soft, V-shaped pad on the bottom of the hoof.

#### **anvil**

A heavy iron block on which hot metal is hammered.

### CORE IDEAS

Horsemen have an old saying: “**No hoof, no horse.**” A horse with sore feet cannot work, carry a rider or even walk well. So the hooves need care.

The hard outside is the hoof wall. It has no feeling, like your fingernail, so nails can go into it without hurting. Underneath is the **frog**, a soft V-shaped pad that helps the hoof grip and acts like a cushion.

Every six to eight weeks the **farrier** comes. He trims the hooves, which keep growing. Many horses wear **horseshoes**, which the farrier heats in a forge and shapes on his **anvil** to fit each foot exactly. Then he nails them on through the hoof wall.

In the old days every town had a blacksmith’s shop, ringing with the sound of hammers. Farriers still work today, often from a truck with a forge in the back. It is a skilled trade, learned by long practice.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Shoeing*, Sir Edwin Landseer, 1844 · Oil on canvas · Tate Britain, London  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Edwin Landseer was a famous English animal painter. Here a blacksmith holds up the mare's back hoof to fit a shoe. The mare stands calmly. A donkey and a bloodhound watch.

### Look closely

- Find the hoof the smith is holding.
- Find the tools and the anvil.
- Find the other animals. What are they doing?

### Talk about it

1. Why is the mare so calm?
2. What would this smithy sound and smell like?

**Safety first.** Horses are large animals. Do hands-on horse activities only with an experienced adult present. Paper, toy and pretend activities are fine at home.

## HANDS-ON: CLAY HOOF MODEL

Model a hoof and a shoe.

### You will need

- Modeling clay (two colors)
- A plastic knife

- Toothpicks

### Steps

1. Shape a round hoof from clay, flat on the bottom.
2. Press a V-shaped frog into the bottom in the second color.
3. Roll a thin snake of clay and bend it into a U-shaped shoe. Press it on the outer edge of the hoof (the wall).
4. Poke toothpick “nails” through the shoe into the wall only, never into the frog.
5. Label your model with a paper flag: wall, frog, shoe.

### Check your work

- My hoof has a wall, a frog and a shoe.
- My nails go into the wall only.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw the bottom of a hoof and label the wall and frog.
2. Write: “No hoof, no horse.”

**Did you know?** A horse’s hoof grows about a quarter to three-eighths of an inch a month. Some horses go barefoot, without shoes, if their hooves are strong. People hang horseshoes over doors for luck, but a Christian horseman trusts God, not a horseshoe.

**Goes deeper in.** Small Business & Economics, “Trades and Craftsmen” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: American Farrier’s Association; Pony Club manual. Hoof growth and 6-8 week trim intervals are standard guidance. Landseer’s Shoeing (exhibited 1844) is at Tate Britain. The “lucky horseshoe” line gently corrects superstition.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What does a farrier do?
2. **MEDIUM** Why doesn’t a nail in the hoof wall hurt?
3. **EASY** What does “No hoof, no horse” mean?

**Make it a game • Blacksmith Rhythm.** The “blacksmith” taps a rhythm on a pot with a spoon: tap-tap, TAP. Everyone copies it by clapping. Make the patterns harder each round.

**Scripture.** “Whose arrows are sharp, and all their bows bent, their horses’ hoofs shall be counted like flint, and their wheels like a whirlwind:” (Isaiah 5:28, KJV)

Isaiah described strong war horses with hooves hard as flint. Strong, healthy hooves were prized long ago, too.

**Practice: answers**

1. Trims hooves and fits horseshoes.
2. The wall has no feeling, like a fingernail.
3. A horse with bad feet cannot work or walk well, so hooves matter most.

## 2.5 FEEDING: HAY, GRAIN AND WATER

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell what a horse eats and drinks each day.
- Explain why horses eat little and often.
- Make a daily care chart with costs.

**Warm-up.** What would happen if you ate only one huge meal a day? Horses are made to nibble all day long.

**Video slot.** Video coming. What horses eat: grazing, hay and grain, and how much water they drink. Search approved channels (a 4-H or university extension channel, Kentucky Horse Park); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **forage**

Grass and hay, the main food of horses.

#### **grain**

Seeds such as oats, corn or barley, fed in small amounts for extra energy.

#### **graze**

To eat grass growing in a field.

#### **ration**

The amount of food given each day.

### CORE IDEAS

In a field, a horse **grazes** for most of the day and night, taking small bites of grass. Its stomach is small for its size, so it is made to eat a little at a time, all day long.

The main food of a horse is **forage**: grass in summer and hay in winter. A grown horse eats about 2 pounds of hay or grass for every 100 pounds it weighs, so a 1,000-pound horse eats about 20 pounds a day.

Hard-working horses may also get a small **ration** of **grain**, like oats. Too much grain can make a horse sick, so it is measured carefully. Horses also need a salt lick.

Water matters most of all. A horse drinks about 5 to 10 gallons a day, and even more in hot weather or after work. Clean, fresh water must always be there. Caring for a horse every single day, in rain or snow, teaches faithfulness.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Haymakers*, George Stubbs, 1785 · Oil on panel · Tate Britain, London  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Stubbs painted farm workers bringing in the hay. This hay will feed horses and cattle all winter. Look at how carefully the wagon is loaded.

### Look closely

- Find the horse and the wagon.
- Find the rakes and pitchforks.
- What season is it? How can you tell?

### Talk about it

1. Why do farmers make hay in summer?
2. How many people does it take to bring in the hay?

## HANDS-ON: DAILY CARE CHART, COSTED OUT

Find out what a horse really costs to keep for a week.

### You will need

- Paper and a ruler
- A pencil and a calculator (optional)
- Prices a grown-up helps you look up (or use the ones given)

### Steps

1. Make a chart with days of the week across the top and jobs down the side: hay, grain, water, grooming, stall cleaning, hooves.
2. Check a box for each day each job is done. Which jobs are every day?
3. Use these example prices (or look up local ones with a grown-up): hay about \$10 a day; grain about \$2 a day; farrier about \$60 every 6 weeks.
4. Add up one week of hay and grain:  $7 \times \$12 = ?$
5. Write: "A horse costs about \$\_\_\_ a week just to feed." Talk about why horses are a big responsibility.

### Tips

- Prices vary widely by place and season; these are round numbers for practice. The answer for one week of food at the example prices is \$84.

### Check your work

- My chart shows daily jobs.
- I added up one week of food.
- I can say why a horse is a big responsibility.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Tape in your care chart.
2. Write how much water a horse drinks in a day.

**Did you know?** Horses cannot burp or vomit, so bad food can be very dangerous for them. A horse's teeth keep growing, and a vet files them smooth (called "floating"). Apples and carrots are good treats, cut into pieces and fed from a flat hand.

**Goes deeper in.** Arithmetic, "Money and Multiplying," and Gardening & Animals, "Caring for Animals" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: university extension guides (e.g., Penn State, University of Minnesota) give 1.5–2.5% of body weight in forage and 5–10+ gallons of water daily. Prices in the project are round practice figures, not quotes. The Haymakers (1785) is at Tate Britain.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What is the main food of a horse?
2. **MEDIUM** Why do horses eat little and often?
3. **EASY** About how much water does a horse drink a day?

**Make it a game • Hay Bale Stack.** Use small boxes or blocks as hay bales. Teams race to stack a "haystack" that does not fall over, while "rain" (a timer) counts down.

**Scripture.** “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” (Proverbs 12:10, KJV)

A good person pays attention to his animal’s needs: food, water and rest, every day.

**Practice: answers**

1. Forage: grass and hay.
2. Their stomachs are small; they are made to graze all day.
3. About 5 to 10 gallons, more when hot.

## 2.6 WALK, TROT, CANTER AND GALLOP

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### OBJECTIVES

- Name the four natural gaits.
- Tell how many beats each gait has.
- Know how Muybridge's photographs proved a galloping horse lifts all four feet.

**Warm-up.** Walk, then skip, then run. Can you hear a different rhythm in your feet? Horses have rhythms too.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Horse gaits in slow motion: walk, trot, canter, gallop; Muybridge's Horse in Motion. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, Smithsonian, Library of Congress); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **gait**

A way of moving, such as walking or trotting.

#### **trot**

A two-beat gait where the legs move in diagonal pairs.

#### **canter**

A three-beat gait, smooth and rocking.

#### **gallop**

The fastest gait, with four beats and a moment when all feet leave the ground.

### CORE IDEAS

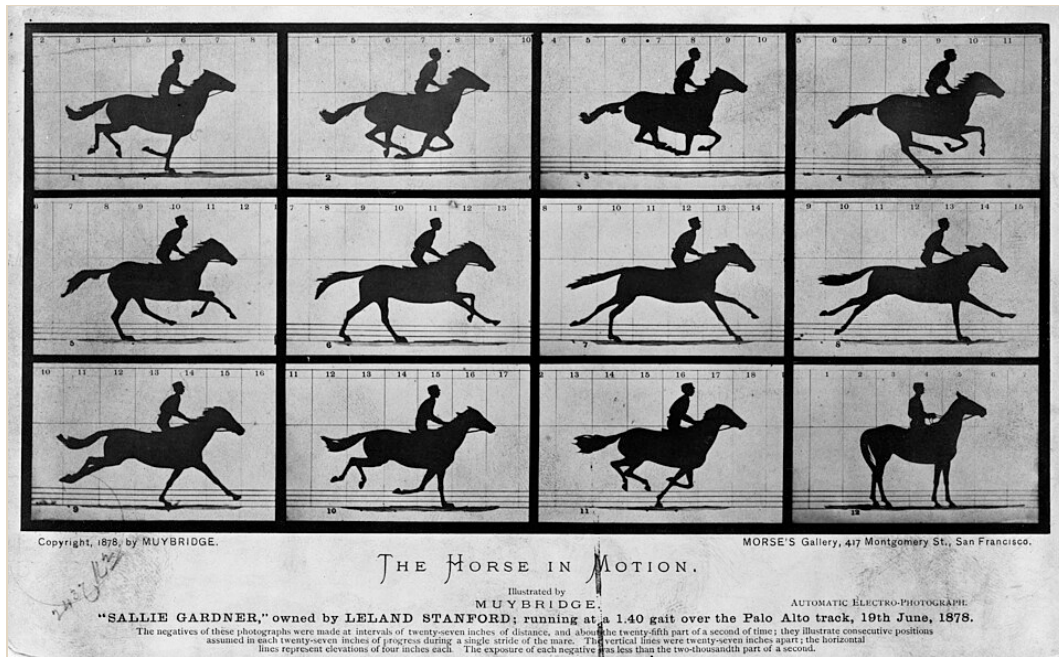
Horses have four natural **gaits**. The **walk** has four beats, one for each foot: 1-2-3-4. It is slow and steady.

The **trot** has two beats. The legs move in pairs, corner to corner: left front with right back, then right front with left back. It is bouncy! The **canter** has three beats and feels like rocking in a rocking chair.

The **gallop** is the fastest gait, with four beats. For a long time people argued: does a galloping horse ever have all four feet off the ground at once? It moved too fast for eyes to see.

In 1878, in California, a photographer named Eadweard Muybridge set up a row of cameras along a track. As a horse named Sallie Gardner galloped past, she tripped threads that fired each camera. The pictures proved it: for a moment, all four feet were in the air, tucked underneath. His pictures helped lead to moving pictures.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Horse in Motion*, Eadweard Muybridge, 1878 · Photographs (albumen prints) · Library of Congress  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

These are Muybridge's famous photographs. Read them like a comic strip, left to right, top to bottom. Find the frames where no hoof touches the ground.

### Look closely

- Find a frame with all four feet in the air.
- Are the legs stretched out or tucked under?
- Count the frames.

### Talk about it

1. Why couldn't people see this before?
2. How did the cameras know when to take each picture?

## HANDS-ON: GALLOP FLIP BOOK

Make a flip book of a galloping horse.

### You will need

- Twelve small cards or sticky notes
- A pencil
- A binder clip or stapler

### Steps

1. Copy one frame of Muybridge's horse onto each card (simple stick shapes are fine).
2. Number the cards in order.
3. Clip them together at the left side.
4. Flip with your thumb. Does the horse gallop?
5. Bonus: clap the rhythm of each gait: walk 1-2-3-4, trot 1-2, canter 1-2-3.

### Check your work

- My flip book shows a horse moving.
- I can clap the beats of three gaits.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw a horse with all four feet off the ground, tucked under.
2. Write the beats: walk 4, trot 2, canter 3, gallop 4.

**Did you know?** Some breeds have extra gaits, such as the Tennessee Walking Horse's running walk. Before Muybridge, many painters showed galloping horses with legs stretched out front and back like a rocking horse. That is not how they really move. You can make Muybridge's pictures move with a flip book.

**Goes deeper in.** Life Science, "Motion and Muscles," and Media Arts, "How Movies Began" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Library of Congress (The Horse in Motion, 1878; Sallie Gardner at Palo Alto, June 19, 1878); Stanford University. Leland Stanford sponsored the work. Trot is a two-beat diagonal gait; canter three-beat; gallop four-beat.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** How many beats does a trot have?
2. **MEDIUM** What did Muybridge's photographs prove?
3. **EASY** Which gait feels like a rocking chair?

**Make it a game • Gait Caller.** The caller shouts "Walk!" "Trot!" "Canter!" "Gallop!" "Whoa!" Children move with the right rhythm. Clap the beats as they go.

**Scripture.** "He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet." (Job 39:24, KJV)

God describes a galloping war horse as one that seems to "swallow the ground." What a picture of speed!

### Practice: answers

1. Two.

2. A galloping horse has all four feet off the ground at one moment.
3. The canter.

## 2.7 SAFETY AROUND HORSES

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell how to approach a horse.
- Tell how to lead a horse.
- Remember: never stand right behind a horse.

**Warm-up.** Have someone walk up quietly behind you and tap your shoulder. Did you jump? Horses startle too, and they are much bigger.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Horse safety for children: approaching, leading and staying out of the kick zone. Search approved channels (United States Pony Clubs, 4-H, a riding-school safety video); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **prey animal**

An animal that other animals hunt. Horses are prey animals, so they startle easily.

#### **blind spot**

A place a horse cannot see, right behind it and right in front of its nose.

#### **lead rope**

A rope clipped to the halter for leading a horse.

#### **halter**

Straps on a horse's head used for leading and tying, without a bit.

### CORE IDEAS

Horses are gentle, but they are big and quick. God made them **prey animals**, so their first idea when scared is to run or kick. A good horseman learns to keep both himself and the horse safe.

To **approach** a horse, walk toward its shoulder, not straight at its face or from behind. Speak in a calm voice so it knows you are there. Let it sniff your hand, then stroke its neck.

To **lead** a horse, walk beside its left shoulder, holding the **lead rope** in your right hand near the halter and the rest folded in your left. Never wrap the rope around your hand. Wear sturdy boots, never sandals.

The biggest rule: **never stand right behind a horse**. That is a **blind spot**, and a startled horse may kick. If you must walk around the back, keep a hand on the horse and stay close so it knows where you are, or walk wide around. And always have a grown-up with you.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Horse Frightened by Lightning*, Théodore Géricault, about 1813–1814 · Oil on canvas · The National Gallery, London

Photo: Sailko · [CC BY 3.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Théodore Géricault was a French painter who loved horses. Here a horse is startled by lightning. Look at its eyes and body. This is what a frightened prey animal looks like.

### Look closely

- Find the lightning.
- Look at the horse's eyes, ears and tail.
- Is the horse running, or about to run?

### Talk about it

1. How can you tell the horse is afraid?
2. What would you do if a horse near you looked like this?

**Safety first.** Horses are large animals. Do hands-on horse activities only with an experienced adult present. Paper, toy and pretend activities are fine at home.

## HANDS-ON: SAFETY POSTER

Make a poster of horse safety rules for a barn or your room.

### You will need

- Paper and markers

## Steps

1. Write the title: "Horse Safety."
2. Draw a horse from above. Shade the blind spots behind and in front of the nose in red.
3. Write five rules: 1 Approach the shoulder. 2 Speak calmly. 3 Lead from the left. 4 Never stand behind. 5 Always have a grown-up.
4. Practice leading a stick horse or a sibling "horse" the right way.

## Check your work

- My poster shows the blind spots.
- I can say five safety rules.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw the horse from above with its blind spots.
2. Write the five safety rules.

**Did you know?** A horse can see almost all the way around, but not directly behind or right in front of its nose. Riders wear helmets to protect their heads. Many falls happen at a walk! Horsemen traditionally lead, mount and work from the horse's left side.

**Goes deeper in.** Gardening & Animals, "Caring for Animals" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: United States Pony Clubs; 4-H horse safety guides. Helmets (ASTM/SEI certified) are recommended for all riding. Géricault's Horse Frightened by Lightning is in the National Gallery, London.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Where should you approach a horse?
2. **EASY** Where should you never stand?
3. **MEDIUM** Why do horses startle easily?

**Make it a game · Calm Horse.** One child is the "horse" with eyes closed. Others must approach the shoulder, speaking softly, and touch the arm. If the horse hears someone sneaking from behind, it "startles" (jumps) and that player goes back.

**Scripture.** "A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are punished." (Proverbs 22:3, KJV)

A wise person thinks ahead and avoids danger. Safety rules are a kind of wisdom.

### Practice: answers

1. At its shoulder, speaking calmly.

2. Right behind the horse.

3. They are prey animals; their first idea when scared is to run or kick.

## 2.8 ENGLISH AND WESTERN RIDING

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell English and Western riding apart.
- Name dressage, jumping and barrel racing.
- Choose a favorite and say why.

**Warm-up.** Look at pictures of a rider in a cowboy hat and a rider in a velvet helmet. What differences do you see?

**Video slot.** Video coming. English and Western riding compared; dressage, show jumping and barrel racing. Search approved channels (Kentucky Horse Park, US Equestrian, National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### English riding

A style of riding with a small, flat saddle, from Europe.

#### Western riding

A style of riding with a large saddle with a horn, from the American ranches.

#### dressage

An English sport where horse and rider perform exact, graceful movements (say “dress-AHJ”).

#### barrel racing

A Western race around three barrels in a cloverleaf pattern.

### CORE IDEAS

There are two great styles of riding. **English riding** came from European cavalry and the hunting field. The saddle is small and flat, and the rider holds a rein in each hand.

**Western riding** came from the cattle ranches of Spain, Mexico and the American West. The saddle is big and deep, with a horn for a rope. The rider often holds both reins in one hand, leaving the other free for work.

English sports include **dressage**, where horse and rider perform careful patterns almost like a dance, and **show jumping**, where they leap fences without knocking down the rails.

Western sports include **barrel racing**, a fast race around three barrels in a cloverleaf, and reining, with spins and sliding stops. In every style, the goal is the same: a horse and rider working together in trust.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Bronco Buster*, Frederic Remington, 1895 · Bronze sculpture · Many casts (e.g., Amon Carter Museum; the Oval Office)  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Frederic Remington made this bronze statue of a cowboy riding an untrained, bucking horse. It balances on just the horse's back legs. A cast of it has stood in the White House Oval Office.

### Look closely

- Find the cowboy's hat and the saddle horn.
- What is the cowboy holding?
- How does the horse balance?

### Talk about it

1. Is this English or Western riding? How can you tell?
2. How does the statue show movement even though it cannot move?

## HANDS-ON: STICK-HORSE BARREL RACE

Ride a cloverleaf barrel pattern.

### You will need

- Three buckets or cones
- A stick horse (or a broom)
- A stopwatch or timer

## Steps

1. Set three buckets in a triangle about 15 steps apart.
2. Start at the bottom. Ride around the right barrel, then the left barrel, then the far barrel, and race home. That makes a cloverleaf.
3. Time each ride. Add 5 seconds for each knocked-over bucket.
4. Then try a “dressage test”: walk a circle, trot a straight line, halt and bow.

## Check your work

- I rode the cloverleaf pattern.
- I can tell English and Western riding apart.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw an English rider and a Western rider side by side. Label the saddles.
2. Write which style you would like to try and why.

**Did you know?** Dressage comes from a French word meaning “training.” The famous white Lipizzaner horses of the Spanish Riding School in Vienna perform dressage. In barrel racing, knocking over a barrel adds 5 seconds.

**Goes deeper in.** Physical Education, “Sports and Fair Play” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: US Equestrian; National Barrel Horse Association (5-second penalty); Spanish Riding School (Vienna). Remington’s The Bronco Buster (1895) has many casts; one has been displayed in the Oval Office under several presidents.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Which saddle has a horn?
2. **MEDIUM** What is dressage?
3. **EASY** What pattern is a barrel race?

**Make it a game · Ride the Pattern.** One child calls a pattern (“circle, line, halt!”). Others ride it on stick horses. The best-matched ride becomes the next caller.

**Scripture.** “In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD; and the pots in the LORD’S house shall be like the bowls before the altar.” (Zechariah 14:20, KJV)

Zechariah saw a day when even horses’ bells would say “Holiness unto the LORD.” Everything, even riding, can be done for God.

### Practice: answers

1. The Western saddle.
2. An English sport with exact, graceful movements, like a dance.
3. A cloverleaf around three barrels.

## TRAIL 2 BADGE QUIZ

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The badge quiz is optional. Read each question aloud; the child may answer by talking, pointing or drawing. Four right out of five earns the first badge; three right out of four earns the second. Badges and the certificate are earned by doing the stops, not by scores.

### Badge quiz 1 (Stops 1-5)

1. Name three parts of a horse.
2. What is the bit?
3. Which grooming tool is used first?
4. Who trims hooves and fits shoes?
5. What is the main food of a horse?

### Badge quiz 2 (Stops 6-8)

6. Name the four gaits.
7. Where should you never stand?
8. Which riding style uses a saddle with a horn?
9. What is a barrel race?

## TRAIL CERTIFICATE: MY HORSE-CARE BOOK AND TRAIL B CERTIFICATE

Gather your parts poster (or a photo of it), care chart, grooming checklist and safety poster into "My Horse-Care Book."

Tell a parent how you would care for a horse for one day, from morning to night.

When the book is done, a parent signs the Trail B certificate.

- **Poster:** Ten parts labeled correctly.
- **Care chart:** Daily jobs and one week's food cost.
- **Safety:** Five rules explained.
- **Care:** Pages are neat and labeled.

### Answer key

1. Any three, such as muzzle, withers, hock, fetlock, hoof.
2. A metal bar in the horse's mouth attached to the reins.
3. The curry comb.
4. The farrier.
5. Grass and hay (forage).
6. Walk, trot, canter, gallop.
7. Right behind a horse.
8. Western.
9. A race around three barrels in a cloverleaf.

## HORSES TRAIL C: FAMOUS HORSES IN HISTORY

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The third trail of the Horses track meets famous horses and the people who rode them: Bucephalus and young Alexander, the horses of the Bible, Marengo and Copenhagen at Waterloo, the Pony Express, Traveller and Cincinnati, Sergeant Reckless, Seabiscuit and Secretariat.

This is the  **Scout** level, for ages 7 to 9. War is told plainly and gently, as in the Great Battles track: who, where, what the horse did, and why it mattered, with no graphic detail.

The trail builds a **Famous Horses timeline**. Five stops earn the **Horse History badge, part 1**; eight earn part 2 and the **Trail C certificate**.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Listen to a story of about five minutes and tell it back.
- Find Europe, Asia and the United States on a globe (a grown-up may help).

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can put the eight famous horses of this trail on a timeline.
- ☐ I can tell what made each horse famous.
- ☐ I can find the Pony Express route on a map.
- ☐ I can name a virtue the horses' people showed: courage, loyalty or perseverance.
- ☐ I can find three horse verses in the Bible.

### OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

- **Smithsonian National Postal Museum: the Pony Express**  
(<https://postalmuseum.si.edu>): Maps, stories and pictures for Stop C4.
- **National Museum of the Marine Corps** (<https://www.usmcmuseum.com>): Sergeant Reckless story and statue (Stop C6).
- **Kentucky Horse Park and the National Museum of Racing**  
(<https://www.racingmuseum.org>): Seabiscuit and Secretariat (Stops C7 and C8).

## 3.1 BUCEPHALUS AND YOUNG ALEXANDER

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Tell how young Alexander tamed Bucephalus.
- Explain how he noticed the horse was afraid of its shadow.
- Find Macedonia on a map.

**Warm-up.** Stand with your back to the sun or a lamp. Where is your shadow? Now turn to face the light. Where did it go?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Alexander the Great and Bucephalus for young viewers. Search approved history channels (Simple History, Kings and Generals, The History Guy); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Bucephalus**

Alexander the Great's horse (say "byoo-SEF-uh-lus"). The name means "ox-head."

#### **Macedonia**

An ancient kingdom north of Greece.

#### **Plutarch**

A Greek writer who wrote the lives of famous men about four hundred years after Alexander.

#### **tame**

To make a wild or wild-acting animal gentle and willing to work.

### CORE IDEAS

In Macedonia, about 2,300 years ago, a horse trader brought a big black horse to King Philip. The horse was strong and fine, but it reared and kicked and would let no one ride it. The king's men gave up. "Take him away," said Philip.

But the king's son, **Alexander**, about twelve years old, said, "What a horse they are losing, because they do not know how to handle him!" His father let him try, and the boy promised to pay for the horse if he failed.

Alexander had noticed something the men missed: the horse was frightened of its own moving shadow on the ground. So he gently turned the horse to face the sun, so the shadow fell behind. He spoke softly, stroked him, and when the horse calmed, he leaped onto his back and rode him out and back again.

King Philip had tears in his eyes and said his son would need a bigger kingdom than Macedonia. **Bucephalus** carried Alexander across Persia all the way to India. When the old

horse died there, Alexander named a city after him: Bucephala.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Alexander on Bucephalus (detail of the Alexander Mosaic), Unknown Roman mosaic maker, after a Greek painting, about 100 B.C. · Stone mosaic · National Archaeological Museum, Naples (from the House of the Faun, Pompeii)*  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

This mosaic was found at Pompeii. It is made of more than a million tiny stones and shows Alexander, grown up, riding Bucephalus into battle. It is the oldest picture of the pair that we have.

### Look closely

- Find Alexander. Is he calm or afraid?
- Find Bucephalus's head and eye.
- How many colors of stone can you count?

### Talk about it

1. What did Alexander notice that the men did not?
2. How did patience help him?

## HANDS-ON: SHADOW EXPERIMENT

See why turning to the sun helped Bucephalus.

### You will need

- A flashlight or a sunny day

- A toy horse
- Paper

### Steps

1. Set the toy horse on paper. Shine the flashlight from behind it. Where is the shadow? (In front, where the horse “sees” it.)
2. Now shine the light from in front of the horse. Where did the shadow go? (Behind it.)
3. Draw both pictures side by side.
4. Tell the story of Alexander using your toy horse.

### Check your work

- I moved the shadow from in front to behind.
- I can tell how Alexander calmed Bucephalus.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Bucephalus, about 344 B.C.** Draw young Alexander and the horse facing the sun.
2. Write the virtue: patience and careful noticing.

**Did you know?** This story was written down by Plutarch, about four hundred years after Alexander lived. Bucephalus is said to have had a white star on his forehead. Bucephalus lived to be about thirty years old.

**Goes deeper in.** History, “Alexander the Great,” and Great Battles, Trail A, “Gaugamela.”

**For families.** Source: Plutarch, Life of Alexander, chapter 6 (written around A.D. 100). Alexander’s age is not stated exactly by Plutarch; most retellings say 10–13. The 13-talent price and Philip’s words are from Plutarch. Bucephala was founded near the Hydaspes (Jhelum) River after the battle there in 326 B.C. The timeline date “about 344 B.C.” is an estimate. Picture: Alexander on Bucephalus, detail of the Alexander Mosaic (about 100 B.C.) from the House of the Faun, Pompeii, now in the National Archaeological Museum, Naples (public domain). It shows Alexander grown up, at the Battle of Issus, not the taming.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What was Bucephalus afraid of?
2. **MEDIUM** How did Alexander calm him?
3. **EASY** What did Alexander name after Bucephalus?

**Make it a game • Shadow Tag.** Outside on a sunny day, players try to step on each other’s shadows. If your shadow is stepped on, you are “it.” Notice: facing the sun hides your shadow behind you!

**Scripture.** “He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.” (Proverbs 16:32, KJV)

Alexander later took many cities, but the day he tamed Bucephalus he showed patience. Ruling yourself is greater than ruling a city.

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**Practice: answers**

1. His own shadow.
2. He turned him to face the sun so the shadow fell behind, spoke softly and stroked him.
3. A city, Bucephala.

## 3.2 HORSES OF THE BIBLE

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### OBJECTIVES

- Read God’s picture of the horse in Job 39.
- Tell what happened to Pharaoh’s chariots.
- Know the white horse of Revelation 19.

**Warm-up.** Close your eyes while someone reads Job 39:19–25 aloud. What do you see in your mind?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Horses and chariots in the ancient world (Egypt and Israel). Search approved channels (The Bible Project vetted per video, a museum channel such as the British Museum); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **chariot**

A light, two-wheeled cart pulled by horses, used in war and travel.

#### **Pharaoh**

The king of ancient Egypt.

#### **war horse**

A horse trained to carry soldiers into battle.

#### **vision**

Something God shows a person, often in pictures.

### CORE IDEAS

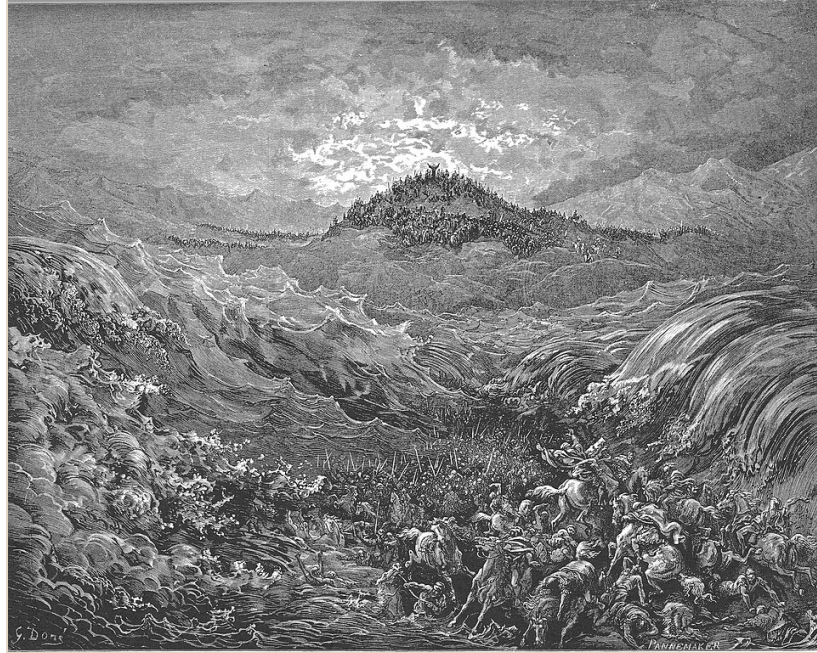
The Bible mentions horses many times. In the book of **Job**, God asks Job a set of questions about His creatures. One is about the war horse: “Hast thou given the horse strength?” God describes a brave horse that paws the ground, laughs at fear, and charges at the sound of the trumpet. Only God could make such a creature.

In **Exodus**, God brought the people of Israel out of Egypt. **Pharaoh** chased them with six hundred chosen **chariots**. God opened the Red Sea, and Israel walked through on dry ground. When the chariots followed, the waters returned. Moses and Miriam sang, “The horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea.”

Israel’s kings were told not to trust in great numbers of horses. Psalm 33 says, “An horse is a vain thing for safety.” Horses are strong, but the LORD is the One who saves.

At the end of the Bible, in **Revelation 19**, the apostle John saw a **vision** of heaven opened and a white horse. Its rider is called Faithful and True. He is Jesus Christ, coming as King of kings and Lord of lords.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Egyptians Drowned in the Red Sea*, Gustave Doré, 1866 · Wood engraving (Doré Bible) · Wikimedia Commons

Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Gustave Doré made hundreds of engravings for a famous illustrated Bible. Here the waters of the Red Sea return over Pharaoh's chariots. The picture shows God's power over the strongest army of the day.

### Look closely

- Find the great wave.
- Find a chariot wheel or a horse.
- Find the shore where Israel is safe.

### Talk about it

1. What does this picture teach about trusting in horses and chariots?
2. How do you think Israel felt watching from the shore?

## HANDS-ON: HORSE VERSES SCROLL

Make a scroll of horse verses from the Bible.

### You will need

- A long strip of paper and two pencils or dowels
- Tape and markers
- A KJV Bible

## Steps

1. Copy these references in order down the scroll: Job 39:19; Exodus 15:1; Psalm 33:17; Proverbs 21:31; 2 Kings 2:11; Revelation 19:11.
2. Look up each verse with a grown-up and copy one short phrase from it.
3. Draw a tiny picture by each.
4. Tape the ends to the pencils and roll it up.

## Check your work

- My scroll has six horse verses.
- I can say which book each comes from.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: The Red Sea.** Draw a chariot wheel in the waves.
2. Copy Psalm 33:17.

**Did you know?** Egyptian chariots carried two men: a driver and a fighter. King Solomon kept many horses and chariots (1 Kings 10:26). Elijah was taken up to heaven by a whirlwind, with a chariot and horses of fire (2 Kings 2:11).

**Goes deeper in.** Bible, “The Exodus,” and History, “Ancient Egypt” (coming soon).

**For families.** Scripture: Job 39:19–25; Exodus 14:7 (600 chosen chariots) and 15:1; Psalm 33:17; Deuteronomy 17:16; 1 Kings 10:26; 2 Kings 2:11; Revelation 19:11–16. Doré’s Bible engravings were published in 1866.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Which book has God’s picture of the war horse?
2. **MEDIUM** What happened to Pharaoh’s chariots?
3. **MEDIUM** Who rides the white horse in Revelation 19?

**Make it a game · Sword Drill: Horses.** Call out a reference from the scroll. The first child to find it in the Bible and read the first words wins the point.

**Scripture.** “An horse is a vain thing for safety: neither shall he deliver any by his great strength.” (Psalm 33:17, KJV)

Even the strongest horse cannot save us. Our trust belongs in God.

### Practice: answers

1. Job (chapter 39).
2. The Red Sea came back over them after Israel crossed safely.

3. Jesus, called Faithful and True.

## 3.3 MARENGO AND COPENHAGEN AT WATERLOO

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who rode Marengo and who rode Copenhagen.
- Know the date of Waterloo: June 18, 1815.
- Tell what happened to each horse afterward.

**Warm-up.** Find Belgium on a map. In 1815, two great generals and their horses met near a village there called Waterloo.

**Video slot.** Video coming. The Battle of Waterloo for young viewers; Wellington and Napoleon. Search approved history channels (Simple History, Kings and Generals, The History Guy, National Army Museum); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Napoleon**

Emperor of the French who conquered much of Europe.

#### **Duke of Wellington**

The British general who led the allied army at Waterloo.

#### **charger**

A horse ridden by an officer in battle.

#### **skeleton**

The bones of a body. Marengo's can still be seen in a museum.

### CORE IDEAS

For years, **Napoleon**, Emperor of the French, fought against the nations of Europe. His favorite horse was **Marengo**, a small gray Arabian, named after a battle Napoleon won in Italy in 1800. Marengo was steady and brave and is said to have carried Napoleon on many campaigns.

The British commander, the **Duke of Wellington**, rode a chestnut horse named **Copenhagen**. Copenhagen was strong and tireless, though he could be bad-tempered and was known to kick!

On June 18, 1815, the two armies met at **Waterloo** in Belgium. Wellington rode Copenhagen for about seventeen hours that day, up and down the lines, encouraging his men. When the Prussian army arrived to help, Napoleon was defeated. After the battle, when Wellington got down, Copenhagen kicked out at him, still full of spirit.

Marengo was captured by the British. He lived to an old age in England, and his skeleton is in the National Army Museum in London. Copenhagen retired to Wellington's estate and was

buried there with military honors in 1836.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Duke of Wellington on Copenhagen*, Sir Thomas Lawrence, 1818 · Oil on canvas · Wikimedia Commons  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Many artists painted Wellington and Copenhagen together. Look at the horse's color and the general's calm face.

### Look closely

- What color is Copenhagen?
- How is Wellington sitting? Calm or excited?
- Is there a battle in the background?

### Talk about it

1. What would a horse need to carry a general for seventeen hours?
2. Why do you think people remember the horses as well as the generals?

## HANDS-ON: TWO HORSES, ONE BATTLE

Make a side-by-side chart of Marengo and Copenhagen.

### You will need

- Paper folded in half
- Colored pencils (gray and chestnut)

### Steps

1. On the left half, draw Marengo, small and gray. Write: rider Napoleon; breed Arabian; what happened: captured, skeleton in London.
2. On the right half, draw Copenhagen, chestnut. Write: rider Wellington; ridden 17 hours at Waterloo; buried with honors 1836.
3. At the top write: Waterloo, June 18, 1815.
4. Circle one thing the two horses had in common.

### Check your work

- My chart compares both horses.
- I can tell the date of Waterloo.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Waterloo, 1815.** Draw both horses.
2. Write Wellington's words about Copenhagen's endurance.

**Did you know?** Wellington said of Copenhagen, "There may have been many faster horses, no doubt many handsomer, but for bottom and endurance I never saw his fellow." ("Bottom" means staying power.) Napoleon owned many horses; several gray Arabians are mixed up in the stories. The famous painting of Napoleon crossing the Alps on a rearing horse is not true to life; he really crossed on a mule.

**Goes deeper in.** Great Battles (future trail: the Modern Age) and History, "Napoleon" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: National Army Museum, London (Marengo skeleton; the identity and age of the horse called Marengo are debated by historians); Stratfield Saye House (Copenhagen died 1836, buried with military honors). Wellington's quotation is from his recorded remarks, as given by the Stratfield Saye estate and standard biographies. The "17 hours" figure is traditional. Napoleon crossed the Alps in 1800 on a mule (Delaroche's 1850 painting shows this); David's rearing-horse painting is idealized. Battle losses are not described.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Who rode Copenhagen?
2. **EASY** What color was Marengo?
3. **MEDIUM** Where can you see Marengo's skeleton today?

**Make it a game • Endurance March.** March in place while the caller counts "hours" (each count is 10 seconds). Who can keep marching longest without stopping, like Copenhagen?

**Scripture.** “Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.” (Psalm 20:7, KJV)

Great generals rode great horses, but our trust is in the LORD.

**Practice: answers**

1. The Duke of Wellington.
2. Gray.
3. The National Army Museum in London.

## 3.4 THE PONY EXPRESS (1860–1861)

### OBJECTIVES

- Trace the Pony Express route from Missouri to California.
- Tell how the relay of riders and stations worked.
- Explain why it ended after only about eighteen months.

**Warm-up.** How long does it take a letter to cross the country today? In 1860, it could take weeks, or months by ship. The Pony Express did it in about ten days.

**Video slot.** Video coming. The Pony Express for young viewers: riders, relay stations and the route. Search the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, National Park Service (Pony Express National Historic Trail), Simple History; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

**relay**

A race or system where one runner hands off to the next.

**station**

A stop along the route where riders changed horses.

**mochila**

A leather cover with four pockets for mail that fit over the saddle (say “mo-CHEE-la”).

**telegraph**

A machine that sent messages along wires by electricity.

### CORE IDEAS

In 1860, California was far from the rest of the United States. Letters went by stagecoach or around South America by ship. A company decided to try something bold: carry the mail across the West by fast horses, in a **relay**. They called it the **Pony Express**.

The route ran about 1,900 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California, across prairies, deserts and mountains. Along the way were about 190 **stations**. Every 10 to 15 miles, a rider leaped onto a fresh horse, threw over the **mochila** full of letters, and galloped on.

The first riders set out on April 3, 1860. Riders were young, light and brave. They rode through heat, snow and storms, day and night. Each rider covered about 75 to 100 miles before handing the mail to the next. A letter could cross in about ten days.

But in October 1861, the **telegraph** line was finished across the country. Messages could now flash across the wires in minutes. Two days later the Pony Express stopped taking mail. It lasted only about eighteen months, but people have never forgotten it.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Coming and Going of the Pony Express*, Frederic Remington, 1900 · Oil on canvas · Gilcrease Museum, Tulsa  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Frederic Remington painted the moment of the relay. One horse has just arrived, tired. The rider has leaped onto a fresh horse and gallops away. Speed was everything.

### Look closely

- Find the fresh horse and the tired horse.
- Find the mail (the mochila).
- What is the land like?

### Talk about it

1. Why did the riders change horses so often?
2. What would be hardest about being a Pony Express rider?

## HANDS-ON: RELAY THE MAIL

Run a family Pony Express relay with a map.

### You will need

- A paper bag or envelope for the “mochila”
- Letters written by family members
- A U.S. map to copy

### Steps

1. Draw the route on a U.S. map from St. Joseph, Missouri, to Sacramento, California. Mark a few stations.
2. Set up “stations” around the yard or house, one person at each.
3. The first rider runs the mochila to the next station and hands it off. Keep going to “Sacramento.”
4. Time the relay. Then deliver the letters!

#### Check your work

- I drew the route.
- Our relay delivered every letter.

#### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Pony Express, 1860-1861.** Draw a rider and the route map.
2. Write why it ended (the telegraph).

**Did you know?** Riders were often light young men; small riders were wanted so the horses could run faster. Mail was costly: at first \$5 for each half-ounce. Abraham Lincoln’s first speech as President in 1861 was carried by Pony Express, in record time.

**Goes deeper in.** History, “The American West,” and Geography, “The Great Plains and the Rockies” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Smithsonian National Postal Museum; National Park Service, Pony Express National Historic Trail. Service began April 3, 1860; the transcontinental telegraph was completed October 24, 1861, and the Pony Express stopped October 26, 1861. Route length and station counts vary slightly by source (about 1,800–1,966 miles; about 150–190 stations). The famous “orphans preferred” advertisement is of doubtful authenticity and is not used. The Lincoln inaugural address crossed in about 7 days 17 hours.

#### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Where did the Pony Express start and end?
2. **MEDIUM** How did the relay work?
3. **EASY** What ended the Pony Express?

**Make it a game • Mochila Swap.** Two teams race. Each rider carries a mochila (a towel) to the next teammate, who must put it over a chair “saddle” before running on. Fastest team wins.

**Scripture.** “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.” (Proverbs 25:25, KJV)

In 1860, a letter from far away was precious. The Gospel is the best news of all.

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**Practice: answers**

1. St. Joseph, Missouri, and Sacramento, California.
2. Riders changed to fresh horses at stations every 10 to 15 miles and handed the mail to new riders.
3. The telegraph line across the country.

## 3.5 TRAVELLER AND CINCINNATI: LEE’S AND GRANT’S HORSES

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who rode Traveller and who rode Cincinnati.
- Describe each horse.
- Tell how both generals cared for their horses.

**Warm-up.** Do you have a favorite stuffed animal, pet or toy that has been with you a long time? Generals in the Civil War had horses like that.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Robert E. Lee and Traveller; Ulysses S. Grant and Cincinnati. Search approved history channels (American Battlefield Trust, Simple History, The History Guy); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### Civil War

The war between the Northern and Southern states of America, 1861–1865.

#### general

A high army leader.

#### Appomattox

The Virginia village where Lee surrendered to Grant in April 1865 (say “ap-uh-MAT-uks”).

#### surrender

To give up in a war.

### CORE IDEAS

During the **Civil War**, General Robert E. Lee led the Confederate army of Virginia. His favorite horse was a gray named **Traveller**. Lee first saw him in 1861 and bought him early in 1862. Traveller was strong, with a quick, springy walk, and he loved to move. Lee rode him through many hard campaigns.

General Ulysses S. Grant led the Union armies. His favorite horse was a tall, handsome bay named **Cincinnati**, a gift given to him during the war. Grant was a fine horseman from boyhood and almost never let anyone else ride Cincinnati. One exception was President Abraham Lincoln.

In April 1865, at **Appomattox** Court House in Virginia, Lee rode Traveller to meet Grant and **surrender**. Grant let Lee’s soldiers keep their own horses and mules so they could go home and plant their spring crops. It was a kind and wise choice that helped the country begin to heal.

After the war, Lee became president of a college in Lexington, Virginia, and rode Traveller around the town. Students pulled hairs from Traveller's tail for keepsakes! Traveller is buried near Lee at the college. Cincinnati lived out his days on a farm in Maryland.

### PICTURE STUDY



*Robert E. Lee on Traveller*, Michael Miley (photograph), 1866 · Photograph · Library of Congress / Washington and Lee University  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

This photograph was taken in Lexington, Virginia, after the war. Photographs were new, and both man and horse had to stand very still.

#### Look closely

- What color is Traveller? Can you tell in a black-and-white photo?
- Find the saddle and bridle.
- How is the rider sitting?

#### Talk about it

1. Why do you think Lee kept Traveller all his life?
2. What does the photograph tell you about life after the war?

### HANDS-ON: APPOMATTOX CHOICE

Act out the meeting at Appomattox and Grant's choice about horses.

#### You will need

- Two stick horses or chairs

- Paper and pencil

## Steps

1. One person is Lee on “Traveller,” one is Grant on “Cincinnati.”
2. Act out Lee arriving and the two generals shaking hands.
3. Grant says: “Let the men take their horses home to work their little farms.”
4. Talk: Why was this kind? Why would horses matter to a farmer in April?
5. Draw the two generals and their horses.

## Check your work

- We acted out Appomattox.
- I can tell why Grant let soldiers keep their horses.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Appomattox, April 1865.** Draw Traveller (gray) and Cincinnati (bay).
2. Write one kind act from this stop.

**Did you know?** Lee wrote a loving description of Traveller in a letter, praising his strength and spirit. Traveller was an American Saddlebred type, about 16 hands. Cincinnati was a grandson of the famous racehorse Lexington.

**Goes deeper in.** History, “The Civil War” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Washington and Lee University (Traveller, died 1871, was reburied in 1971 outside the chapel where Lee is buried); Library of Congress; Grant’s Personal Memoirs (1885) on the horse terms and Cincinnati. Lee first saw the horse (then called Jeff Davis, later Greenbrier) in western Virginia in 1861 and bought him in February 1862 for \$200. The Civil War cause is not discussed here; see the History course. Lincoln rode Cincinnati at City Point in 1864–65 per Grant’s accounts.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Whose horse was Traveller?
2. **EASY** Whose horse was Cincinnati?
3. **MEDIUM** What kind choice did Grant make at Appomattox?

**Make it a game • General Says.** Like “Simon Says,” but the caller is a general on horseback: “General says walk your horse... trot... halt!”

**Scripture.** “Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.” (Romans 12:20, KJV)

Grant’s kindness to a defeated enemy is a picture of this verse.

**Practice: answers**

1. General Robert E. Lee's.
2. General Ulysses S. Grant's.
3. He let Lee's soldiers take their horses home to farm.

## 3.6 SERGEANT RECKLESS, THE KOREAN WAR PACKHORSE

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell how a small Mongolian mare became a U.S. Marine.
- Tell what she did at the Battle for Outpost Vegas (1953).
- Name her rank and honors.

**Warm-up.** Fill a backpack with books and carry it up and down the stairs five times. Tired? Imagine doing it fifty times.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Sergeant Reckless, the Marine Corps war horse. Search the National Museum of the Marine Corps, Smithsonian, The History Guy, Simple History; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Korean War**

A war in Korea, 1950–1953, in which the United States and allies helped South Korea.

#### **Marine**

A soldier in the United States Marine Corps.

#### **ammunition**

Shells and bullets for guns.

#### **packhorse**

A horse that carries loads on its back.

### CORE IDEAS

In 1952, during the **Korean War**, a Marine officer, Lieutenant Eric Pedersen, bought a small chestnut mare from a Korean boy at a racetrack in Seoul. The boy sold her to buy an artificial leg for his sister. The Marines named her **Reckless**, after their “Recoilless Rifle” platoon.

Reckless was trained to carry heavy shells for the big guns up steep hills. She learned to step over wires, lie down when shooting started, and run into a bunker for safety. She lived with the Marines, slept in their tents on cold nights, and loved to eat pancakes, scrambled eggs and even Coca-Cola.

In March 1953, at the Battle for Outpost Vegas, Reckless made 51 trips in one day up and down the hills, mostly alone, carrying **ammunition** to the guns. She also carried wounded men to safety. She was wounded twice but kept going.

The Marines made her a corporal, and later a staff sergeant. After the war she came to America and lived at Camp Pendleton in California. She received two Purple Hearts. Today

statues of her stand at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and other places.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Reckless with a Marine*, U.S. Marine Corps photograph, 1954 · Photograph · U.S. Marine Corps / National Archives

Photo: USMC Archives from Quantico, USA · [CC BY 2.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This is a real photograph of Reckless with the Marines, after the war. She was the football team's mascot for a time. Look how small she is beside the men, yet how strong she was.

### Look closely

- Find the white blaze on her face.
- Is she big or small for a horse?
- What is she wearing?

### Talk about it

1. What made Reckless a hero?
2. How did the Marines show they loved her?

## HANDS-ON: RECKLESS'S TRIPS

Count and graph her trips.

### You will need

- Paper, a ruler and pencils
- 51 small objects (beans or buttons)

## Steps

1. Count out 51 beans. That is how many trips Reckless made in one day.
2. Group them in tens. How many groups? How many left over?
3. Draw a hill on paper and a path with tally marks for each trip.
4. Write a medal for Reckless with her name and rank.

## Check your work

- I counted 51 trips in groups of ten.
- I made a medal for Reckless.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Reckless, 1953.** Draw Reckless carrying a load up a hill.
2. Write her rank: Staff Sergeant.

**Did you know?** Reckless walked most of her trips alone, after learning the route. Life magazine named her one of America's 100 all-time heroes. She had four foals in California.

**Goes deeper in.** History, "The Korean War" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: National Museum of the Marine Corps; Robin Hutton, Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse (2014); Andrew Geer, Reckless: Pride of the Marines (1955). Purchased October 1952 for \$250. Often called a Mongolian pony; the Marine Corps Museum says she was a Jeju/Halla-type Korean horse, so the stop says only "a small chestnut mare." Outpost Vegas March 26-28, 1953 (51 trips on March 27 is the usual figure); promoted to corporal 1953, sergeant April 10, 1954 and staff sergeant August 31, 1959; died May 1968 (web-checked: USMC Museum fact sheet). Wounds were minor; the stop does not describe them. Coca-Cola is named because it is part of the historical story.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What war did Reckless serve in?
2. **MEDIUM** How many trips did she make in one day at Outpost Vegas?
3. **EASY** What was her highest rank?

**Make it a game • Ammo Carry.** Set a "hill" (a couch or a slope). Children carry beanbags one at a time from the bottom to a basket at the top. How many trips can they make in two minutes?

**Scripture.** "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2, KJV)

Reckless carried heavy loads for her friends. Christians help carry each other's burdens.

---

**Practice: answers**

1. The Korean War.
2. 51.
3. Staff sergeant.

## 3.7 SEABISCUIT (1938)

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Tell why Seabiscuit was an unlikely champion.
- Tell about the 1938 race against War Admiral.
- Explain why people in hard times loved him.

**Warm-up.** Have you ever been picked last, or thought you could not do something, and then did it? Seabiscuit was that kind of horse.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Seabiscuit and the 1938 match race against War Admiral (historic newsreel). Search the Smithsonian, National Museum of Racing, The History Guy; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **underdog**

Someone expected to lose.

#### **match race**

A race between just two horses.

#### **Great Depression**

A time in the 1930s when many people lost jobs and money.

#### **jockey**

The rider in a horse race.

### CORE IDEAS

**Seabiscuit** was small, knobby-kneed and lazy as a young horse. He lost many races. Trainers thought he was not much good. But in 1936 a businessman named Charles Howard bought him, and a quiet trainer named Tom Smith saw something special in him.

Tom Smith was patient. He gave Seabiscuit friends in the stable, including a horse and a dog, and the nervous horse calmed down. A tough **jockey** named Red Pollard learned to ride him. Seabiscuit began to win.

This was the time of the **Great Depression**, when many families were poor and discouraged. People loved Seabiscuit because he was an **underdog**, like them, who kept trying.

On November 1, 1938, Seabiscuit raced the champion War Admiral in a **match race** at Pimlico in Maryland. War Admiral was the Triple Crown winner and the favorite. Forty thousand people came, and millions listened on the radio. Seabiscuit won by four lengths!

## PICTURE STUDY

*Seabiscuit and Red Pollard*, Photograph, 1930s · Photograph · Wikimedia Commons (public domain where available)

No photograph is printed here, because we could not confirm the rights to any Seabiscuit photo. With a grown-up, look at photos of Seabiscuit online, for example on [his Wikipedia page](#). He was smaller than most champions. Look closely at his size and shape.

### Look closely

- Is Seabiscuit tall or small?
- Find the jockey's silks (racing shirt).
- Where was this taken?

### Talk about it

1. Why did people love an underdog?
2. How did patience help Seabiscuit?

## HANDS-ON: RADIO RACE CALL

Write and perform a radio announcement of the match race.

### You will need

- Paper and pencil
- A toy microphone or a spoon

### Steps

1. Write three sentences an announcer might say at the start, middle and end of the race.
2. Practice saying them excitedly, like a radio announcer in 1938.
3. Perform it for your family with sound effects (hooves: tap your knees).
4. Ask: How did people "see" the race without TV?

### Check your work

- I wrote a race call.
- I performed it.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Seabiscuit, 1938.** Draw Seabiscuit crossing the finish line.
2. Write one word that describes him: patient, plucky, determined.

**Did you know?** Red Pollard was blind in one eye, a secret he kept for years. Seabiscuit was a grandson of the great racehorse Man o' War, and War Admiral was a son of Man o'

War. President Franklin Roosevelt is said to have stopped a meeting to listen to the race on the radio.

**Goes deeper in.** History, “The Great Depression” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: National Museum of Racing; Laura Hillenbrand, *Seabiscuit: An American Legend* (2001). Match race November 1, 1938, Pimlico; Seabiscuit won by four lengths; about 40,000 attended and an estimated 40 million listened. Racing involves gambling; not mentioned in the child text. Seabiscuit was a grandson of Man o’ War through Hard Tack. No photograph is printed: rights to the Seabiscuit photos on Commons could not be confirmed, so the stop links to photos instead.json.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Which horse did Seabiscuit beat in the 1938 match race?
2. **MEDIUM** Why did people in the Great Depression love Seabiscuit?
3. **EASY** Who was Seabiscuit’s patient trainer?

**Make it a game • Underdog Race.** Give the youngest child a head start in a race. Talk afterward: was it fair? Seabiscuit won without a head start, by heart and training.

**Scripture.** “I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.” (Ecclesiastes 9:11, KJV)

The fastest do not always win. God rules over every race.

### Practice: answers

1. War Admiral.
2. He was an underdog who kept trying, like them.
3. Tom Smith.

## 3.8 SECRETARIAT’S BELMONT (1973)

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Tell what the Triple Crown is.
- Tell how Secretariat won the Belmont Stakes in 1973.
- Know the meaning of “by 31 lengths.”

**Warm-up.** Lay out a toy horse and measure its length with a ruler. Now imagine 31 horses lined up nose to tail. That is how far ahead Secretariat finished.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Secretariat’s 1973 Belmont Stakes (historic race footage). Search the Kentucky Derby Museum, National Museum of Racing, Smithsonian; preview first and skip gambling content.

### KEY TERMS

#### Triple Crown

Winning three big races in one year: the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness and the Belmont Stakes.

#### length

The length of one horse, about 8 feet, used to measure the gap between horses.

#### record

The best time ever made.

#### stamina

Strength to keep going over a long distance.

### CORE IDEAS

**Secretariat** was a big chestnut colt with three white socks and a star and stripe, nicknamed “Big Red.” In 1973 he tried for the **Triple Crown**, which no horse had won for 25 years.

He won the Kentucky Derby in May in record time, and then the Preakness. The last race was the Belmont Stakes in New York, a long race of a mile and a half.

On June 9, 1973, Secretariat started fast and kept getting faster. By the last turn he was far ahead of every other horse. He crossed the finish line **31 lengths** ahead, in 2 minutes and 24 seconds, a **record** that still stands.

People who watched never forgot it. Secretariat had speed and great **stamina**. When he died, a vet found his heart was unusually large, perhaps twice the size of an ordinary horse’s heart.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Secretariat statue*, Photograph of the statue by Edwin Bogucki, modern photograph · Bronze statue (photograph) · Kentucky Horse Park, Lexington

Photo: Calstanhope · [CC BY-SA 4.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

Photographs of the real 1973 race are still under copyright, so here is a photograph of a statue of Secretariat at the Kentucky Horse Park. Look at the reach of his legs.

### Look closely

- Find the jockey.
- How many hooves touch the ground?
- What tells you he is running fast?

### Talk about it

1. Why would people build a statue of a horse?
2. What would you put on a statue of your favorite animal?

## HANDS-ON: 31 LENGTHS

Measure how far ahead Secretariat was.

### You will need

- A long tape measure or a ball of string
- Chalk or sticks to mark
- A calculator (optional)

### Steps

1. One horse length is about 8 feet. How far is 31 lengths? ( $31 \times 8 = 248$  feet.)
2. Outside, measure 248 feet with string or count big steps (about 2 feet each, so about 124 steps).
3. Stand at the start and look at a partner at the far mark. That was the gap!
4. Make a Triple Crown chart: Kentucky Derby, Preakness, Belmont, with a check by each.

### Tips

- A horse length is usually taken as about 8 feet (2.4 m).  $31 \times 8 = 248$  feet.

### Check your work

- I measured 31 lengths.
- I can name the three Triple Crown races.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. **Timeline card: Secretariat, 1973.** Draw “Big Red” far ahead of the others.
2. Glue your eight timeline cards in order on a long strip: Bucephalus to Secretariat.

**Did you know?** Before Secretariat, the last Triple Crown winner was Citation in 1948. Secretariat’s Belmont record of 2:24 has never been broken. His owner, Penny Chenery, ran the family farm after her father fell ill.

**Goes deeper in.** Arithmetic, “Measuring and Multiplying” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: National Museum of Racing; Kentucky Derby Museum; Belmont Park records. Belmont Stakes June 9, 1973; won by 31 lengths in 2:24 (track and American record at  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles on dirt). Triple Crown winners before him: Citation (1948). The heart weight (about 22 lb, estimated; necropsy by Dr. Thomas Swerczek, 1989) was estimated, not weighed; stated as “unusually large, perhaps twice.” Race photos are under copyright; the statue photo license is in build/pics.json.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What three races make the Triple Crown?
2. **EASY** By how many lengths did Secretariat win the Belmont?
3. **MEDIUM** What was special about Secretariat’s heart?

**Make it a game • Big Red Run.** Set three “races” in the yard: short, medium and long. Each child runs all three. Who wins the “Triple Crown”?

**Scripture.** “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,” (Hebrews 12:1, KJV)

The Christian life is like a long race. We run with patience, looking to Jesus.

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**Practice: answers**

1. Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes.
2. 31 lengths.
3. It was unusually large.

## TRAIL 3 BADGE QUIZ

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The badge quiz is optional. Read each question aloud; the child may answer by talking, pointing or drawing. Four right out of five earns the first badge; three right out of four earns the second. Badges and the certificate are earned by doing the stops, not by scores.

### Badge quiz 1 (Stops 1-5)

1. What was Bucephalus afraid of?
2. Which book of the Bible describes the war horse that “laughs at fear”?
3. Which horse carried Wellington at Waterloo?
4. What did the Pony Express carry?
5. What was the name of General Lee’s horse?

### Badge quiz 2 (Stops 6-8)

6. Which war did Sergeant Reckless serve in?
7. Which famous horse did Seabiscuit beat in 1938?
8. By how many lengths did Secretariat win the Belmont?
9. What is the Triple Crown?

## TRAIL CERTIFICATE: MY FAMOUS HORSES TIMELINE AND TRAIL C CERTIFICATE

Glue your eight timeline cards in order on a long strip of paper: “Famous Horses in History,” from Bucephalus to Secretariat.

Pick one horse and tell a parent the virtue its story shows: patience, endurance, loyalty, courage or perseverance.

When the timeline is done, a parent signs the Trail C certificate.

- **Timeline:** Eight cards in the right order with dates.
- **Story:** One horse’s story told back.
- **Virtue:** A virtue named and explained.
- **Care:** Cards neat and labeled.

### Answer key

1. His own shadow.
2. Job.
3. Copenhagen.
4. Mail.
5. Traveller.
6. The Korean War.
7. War Admiral.
8. 31.
9. Winning the Kentucky Derby, Preakness and Belmont in one year.

## HORSES TRAIL D: HORSES IN GREAT STORIES

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The fourth trail of the Horses track reads great horse stories: Anna Sewell and *Black Beauty*, kindness to animals, Marguerite Henry's *Misty of Chincoteague* and *King of the Wind*, Walter Farley's *The Black Stallion*, and ends with the child writing and illustrating a horse story of his or her own.

This is the  **Scout** level, for ages 7 to 9. *Black Beauty* (1877) is in the public domain and is quoted here. *Misty of Chincoteague*, *King of the Wind* and *The Black Stallion* are still under copyright, so those stops tell about the books in our own words and point families to the books themselves, from the library or a bookshop.

Five stops earn the **Horse Story badge, part 1**; eight earn part 2 and the **Trail D certificate**.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN

- Listen to a story of about five minutes and tell it back.
- Optional: borrow the books from a library to read alongside.

### MASTERY CHECKLIST

- ☐ I can tell who wrote *Black Beauty* and why.
- ☐ I can retell the main events of one horse book.
- ☐ I can explain Proverbs 12:10.
- ☐ I can tell how a real pony became a book character.
- ☐ I have written and illustrated my own horse story.

### OPTIONAL BOOKS AND RESOURCES

- **Anna Sewell, *Black Beauty* (1877), free at Project Gutenberg**  
(<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/271>): The full text, free; read a chapter a day.
- **Marguerite Henry, *Misty of Chincoteague* (1947) and *King of the Wind* (1948)**  
(<https://www.worldcat.org>): Under copyright; borrow from the library. Illustrated by Wesley Dennis.
- **Walter Farley, *The Black Stallion* (1941)** (<https://www.worldcat.org>): Under copyright; borrow from the library. Parents may preview for intensity.

## 4.1 ANNA SEWELL AND WHY SHE WROTE *BLACK BEAUTY*

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who Anna Sewell was.
- Tell why she wrote *Black Beauty*.
- Know that it was published in 1877.

**Warm-up.** Have you ever wanted to make people kinder to someone or something? What would you do? Anna Sewell wrote a book.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Anna Sewell and the writing of *Black Beauty*. Search approved channels (a library or literature channel, Norfolk museums, The History Guy); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### author

The person who writes a book.

#### invalid

A person who is sick or hurt for a long time and cannot get around easily (say “IN-vuh-lid”).

#### autobiography

The story of a life told by the one who lived it. *Black Beauty* is told as if by the horse.

#### Quaker

A member of a Christian group known for plain living and kindness.

### CORE IDEAS

**Anna Sewell** was born in 1820 in Norfolk, England, into a Christian Quaker family. When she was about fourteen, she slipped and badly hurt her ankles. For the rest of her life she could not walk far, so she depended on horses and a pony carriage to get around.

Anna came to love the horses who pulled her carriage. She learned to drive with a gentle voice and light hands, never a whip. She grieved to see cab horses and cart horses treated cruelly in the streets.

Her mother, Mary Sewell, wrote Christian poems and stories for children, and Anna helped her. In her last years, when she was very ill and had to stay in bed or on a sofa, Anna began her own book. She wrote in her journal that its special aim was “to induce kindness, sympathy, and an understanding treatment of horses.” When she grew too weak to write, she told the words to her mother, who wrote them down.

The book was **Black Beauty**, published in November 1877. It is told by the horse himself, like an **autobiography**. Anna lived just long enough to hear that people loved it. She died in April 1878, five months later. Her book has since sold tens of millions of copies.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Anna Sewell*, Unknown photographer, about 1870s · Photograph · Wikimedia Commons  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

This is one of the few pictures of Anna Sewell. She lived quietly and was not famous until after her book came out.

### Look closely

- What is she wearing?
- Does she look stern or kind?
- How is this picture different from photographs today?

### Talk about it

1. How did Anna's own troubles help her understand horses?
2. Why do you think she told the story as if the horse were speaking?

## HANDS-ON: A LETTER FROM ANNA

Write a short letter as if from Anna Sewell to a carriage driver.

### You will need

- Paper and pencil
- Optional: a quill pen made from a feather

## Steps

1. Start: "Dear Sir,"
2. Write two sentences asking him to be gentle with his horse and to loosen the tight rein.
3. Write one sentence about why horses deserve kindness.
4. Sign it "Your friend, Anna Sewell, 1877."
5. Roll it up and tie it with string.

## Check your work

- My letter has a greeting, a request and a reason.
- I signed it as Anna.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Draw Anna Sewell in her pony carriage.
2. Copy her aim: "to induce kindness, sympathy, and an understanding treatment of horses."

**Did you know?** The full title was *Black Beauty: His Grooms and Companions. The Autobiography of a Horse. Translated from the Original Equine*. Anna was paid only £20 for her book. Black Beauty was the only book Anna Sewell ever wrote.

**Goes deeper in.** Literature, "Victorian Writers" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Britannica; Norfolk Museums; Adrienne Gavin, *Dark Horse: A Life of Anna Sewell* (2004). Born 30 March 1820, Great Yarmouth; *Black Beauty* published 24 November 1877 by Jarrold and Sons; died 25 April 1878. The journal quotation (1871) is as given in standard biographies. Sewell later attended Anglican services; she was raised Quaker. The £20 payment is from biographies. Portrait license in build/pics.json.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Who wrote *Black Beauty*?
2. **EASY** When was it published?
3. **MEDIUM** Why did Anna write it?

**Make it a game · Who Am I?** One child describes a person from this trail ("I could not walk far, so I drove a pony carriage..."). The others guess.

**Scripture.** "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness." (Proverbs 31:26, KJV)

Anna Sewell used her words to teach kindness, even when she was weak and ill.

1. Anna Sewell.
2. 1877.
3. To make people kinder to horses.

## 4.2 BLACK BEAUTY: GINGER, MERRYLEGS AND THE BEARING REIN

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Name Black Beauty’s friends Ginger and Merrylegs.
- Tell what a bearing rein was and why it hurt.
- Read Black Beauty’s mother’s advice.

**Warm-up.** Hold your chin up as high as you can and keep it there while you walk across the room and back. How does your neck feel?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Black Beauty read-aloud or retelling, early chapters (public-domain audiobook or a family-safe retelling). Search approved channels (LibriVox recordings, a library channel); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### bearing rein

A strap used long ago to hold a carriage horse’s head high for fashion. It hurt the horse.

#### Ginger

A chestnut mare in the book who bites because she was badly treated.

#### Merrylegs

A fat little gray pony in the book, gentle with children.

#### Birtwick Park

Black Beauty’s first good home, with Squire Gordon.

### CORE IDEAS

*Black Beauty* begins with a happy colt in a meadow. The first line says: “The first place that I can well remember was a large pleasant meadow with a pond of clear water in it.” His mother gives him good advice: “I hope you will grow up gentle and good, and never learn bad ways; do your work with a good will, lift your feet up well when you trot, and never bite or kick even in play.”

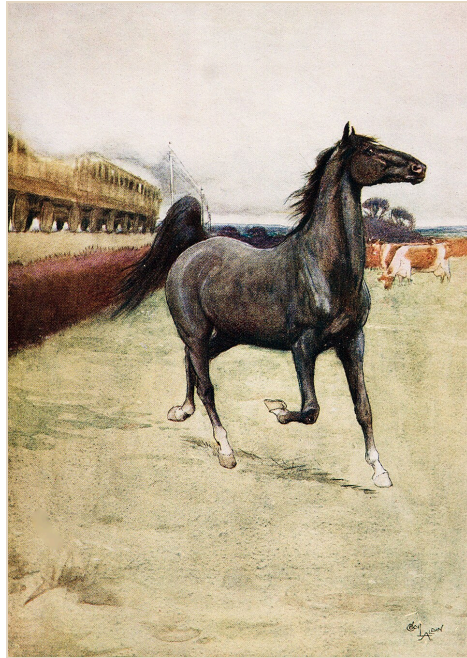
Beauty’s first good home is **Birtwick Park**. There he meets **Merrylegs**, a merry gray pony who gives rides to the children, and **Ginger**, a tall chestnut mare who sometimes bites. Ginger tells Beauty that she was treated harshly as a young horse, so she never learned to trust.

Later, Beauty and Ginger are sold to a grand house where the lady wants her horses to hold their heads high and look fashionable. So the coachman uses a **bearing rein**, a strap that

pulls the head up and back. Beauty says, “Day by day, hole by hole, our bearing reins were shortened.” It hurt their necks and made pulling hard.

Through his life Beauty has kind masters and cruel ones. The book shows how much good kindness does, and how much harm comes from carelessness and cruelty. At the very end, Beauty finds a happy, peaceful home.

### PICTURE STUDY



*Black Beauty*, illustration, Cecil Aldin or another early illustrator (public domain), 1900s–1912 · Book illustration · Wikimedia Commons  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Many artists have illustrated *Black Beauty*. Look for the white star on his forehead and the white foot.

#### Look closely

- Find Beauty’s star.
- What is happening in the picture?
- How does the artist show what Beauty feels?

#### Talk about it

1. Would you like to meet this horse? Why?
2. How is a book illustration different from a painting in a museum?

### HANDS-ON: BEARING-REIN EXPERIMENT

Feel why the bearing rein hurt.

### You will need

- A scarf or soft ribbon
- A backpack with a few books

### Steps

1. Put on the backpack. Walk across the room normally. Easy?
2. Now hold your chin up high (no strap needed) and walk again, leaning forward a little as if pulling. Harder?
3. Talk about it: a horse pulls with its head and neck low and forward. Why would holding the head high make pulling harder and hurt?
4. Draw two horses: one with a high, tight bearing rein and one pulling freely.

### Tips

- Do not tie anything around a child's neck or head. Only hold the chin up for a few steps.

### Check your work

- I felt the difference.
- I can explain why the bearing rein was cruel.

## FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Black Beauty's mother's advice.
2. Draw Black Beauty, Ginger and Merrylegs in a row with labels.

**Did you know?** After *Black Beauty* came out, many people stopped using the bearing rein. Black Beauty is black with one white foot and a white star on his forehead. The book has 49 short chapters, good for one a day.

**Goes deeper in.** Literature, "Reading Classic Novels" (coming soon).

**For families.** Quotations are from *Black Beauty* (1877), public domain, checked against the Project Gutenberg text (eBook #271): chapter 1 (opening line and the mother's advice) and chapter 23 ("Day by day, hole by hole, our bearing reins were shortened"). Some chapters describe cruelty to horses (Ginger's end in chapter 40 is sad); parents may preview. The claim that the book reduced bearing-rein use is widely made; the practice was already being opposed by the RSPCA.

## PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Who were Black Beauty's two friends at Birtwick Park?
2. **MEDIUM** What was a bearing rein?
3. **MEDIUM** Why did Ginger bite?

**Make it a game · Merrylegs Rides.** An older child is “Merrylegs” and gives gentle piggyback rides (or leads a younger child around holding hands). Merrylegs must walk gently and stop when asked.

**Scripture.** “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you.” (Ephesians 4:32, KJV)

Black Beauty shows how kindness heals and cruelty harms. God calls us to be tenderhearted.

**Practice: answers**

1. Ginger and Merrylegs.
2. A strap that held a horse’s head high for fashion; it hurt the horse.
3. She had been treated harshly when young.

## 4.3 KINDNESS TO ANIMALS

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Explain Proverbs 12:10.
- Tell what animals need from people.
- Make a kindness plan for a pet or farm animal.

**Warm-up.** Think of an animal you know: a pet, a neighbor's dog, a bird at the feeder. What does it need from you?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Caring for animals kindly: a farm family or animal rescue caring for horses. Search approved channels (4-H, a university extension, Kentucky Horse Park, Homeschool Pop (Alternate)); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **righteous**

Doing what is right in God's eyes.

#### **regardeth**

An old word meaning "pays attention to" or "cares about."

#### **steward**

Someone who takes care of what belongs to another. We are stewards of God's creation.

#### **dominion**

The rule God gave people over the animals (Genesis 1:28), to be used wisely and kindly.

### CORE IDEAS

In the beginning God made the animals and gave people **dominion** over them. That means we are in charge, but not to be cruel. A good ruler cares for those under him. We are God's **stewards**.

Proverbs 12:10 says, "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast." A **righteous** person notices what his animal needs: food, water, rest, shelter and gentle handling. He does not overwork it or forget it.

God even cares for animals in His law. The Sabbath rest was for oxen and donkeys too (Exodus 23:12). A farmer was not to muzzle the ox while it threshed grain, so it could eat as it worked (Deuteronomy 25:4). Jesus said not one sparrow is forgotten before God (Luke 12:6).

In *Black Beauty*, the good coachman John Manly and the kind cab driver Jerry Barker show this kind of care. Kindness to animals is part of loving God and loving our neighbor, because animals are His creatures.

## PICTURE STUDY



*A Distinguished Member of the Humane Society*, Sir Edwin Landseer, 1838 · Oil on canvas · Tate Britain, London

Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

Edwin Landseer painted this brave Newfoundland dog, a breed famous for rescuing people from water. The title is a gentle joke: the dog is like a member of the Humane Society, which rewarded people for rescues.

### Look closely

- Find the water. Why is the dog there?
- Look at the dog's face. What is it like?
- Find the light on its fur.

### Talk about it

1. How do animals help people?
2. How should people help animals in return?

## HANDS-ON: KINDNESS PLAN

Make a care plan for a real animal you know.

### You will need

- Paper and markers

### Steps

1. Choose an animal: a pet, a backyard bird, a neighbor's animal (with permission).

2. Write what it needs: food, water, shelter, exercise, gentle touch.
3. Write one thing you will do for it every day this week.
4. Check it off each day. At the end, tell how the animal responded.

#### Check your work

- My plan lists five needs.
- I did my daily kindness for a week.

#### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Copy Proverbs 12:10.
2. Draw yourself caring for an animal.

**Did you know?** The first society to protect animals, the RSPCA, was started in London in 1824. Some of its founders were Christian leaders, including William Wilberforce. In *Black Beauty*, Jerry the cab driver will not work on Sundays so his horses can rest. Horses remember kind and unkind people for years.

**Goes deeper in.** Gardening & Animals, “Caring for Animals,” and Bible, “Creation” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: RSPCA history (founded 1824 as the SPCA; Wilberforce among the founders); Exodus 23:12; Deuteronomy 25:4; Luke 12:6; Genesis 1:28. Landseer’s A Distinguished Member of the Humane Society (1838) is at Tate. The stop teaches biblical dominion and stewardship, not animal-rights philosophy.

#### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What does “regardeth” mean?
2. **MEDIUM** Name two things an animal needs from people.
3. **MEDIUM** Name one law in the Bible that shows God cares for animals.

**Make it a game • Gentle Hands.** Pass a raw egg (or a water balloon) around a circle gently. Talk about how gentle hands are like a gentle master.

**Scripture.** “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” (Proverbs 12:10, KJV)

The verse of this stop: a good person cares for his animals.

#### Practice: answers

1. Pays attention to, cares about.
2. Any two: food, water, shelter, rest, gentle handling, exercise.

3. Sabbath rest for animals (Exodus 23:12), or don't muzzle the ox (Deuteronomy 25:4).

## 4.4 MISTY OF CHINCOTEAGUE (1947)

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who wrote *Misty of Chincoteague* and when.
- Retell the story in a few sentences.
- Tell how the author found her story.

**Warm-up.** If you could write a book about any real animal, which would you choose? Marguerite Henry chose a real pony.

**Video slot.** Video coming. Marguerite Henry and *Misty of Chincoteague*; the real Chincoteague. Search the Chincoteague Island Library, the Museum of Chincoteague Island, a library channel; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **Marguerite Henry**

An American author who wrote many true-to-life horse stories (1902–1997).

#### **Wesley Dennis**

The artist who drew the pictures for many of her books.

#### **Phantom**

The wild mare in the story whom the children want to buy.

#### **Newbery Honor**

A prize for an excellent American children's book.

### CORE IDEAS

In 1946, a writer named **Marguerite Henry** and an artist named **Wesley Dennis** traveled to Chincoteague Island to watch the Pony Penning. There they met the Beebe family, who raised ponies on their ranch, and a newborn golden-and-white foal.

Marguerite Henry wrote a story about two Beebe children, Paul and Maureen, who save their money to buy a wild mare called the **Phantom**, who has never been caught. On Pony Penning Day, Paul rides out with the men and the Phantom is rounded up at last, with a new foal at her side. The children name the foal Misty.

The book shows hard work, patience and the joy and sorrow of loving a wild creature. In the end the children must make a hard choice about the Phantom: whether to keep her or let her go back to her wild island home.

*Misty of Chincoteague* came out in 1947 and won a **Newbery Honor**. It is still under copyright, so we do not print its words here. Borrow it from the library to read the whole story, with Wesley Dennis's pictures.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Chincoteague Pony Swim*, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (photograph), modern · Photograph · Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge

Photo: Leonard J. DeFrancisci · [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This photograph shows the real Pony Swim, the day the story is built around. Look how the ponies hold their heads above the water.

### Look closely

- Count the ponies you can see.
- Find the boats. Who might be in them?
- Find a foal, if you can.

### Talk about it

1. What would Paul and Maureen feel watching this?
2. Why might a writer want to see the real place before writing?

## HANDS-ON: STORY MAP

Make a map of the story's places.

### You will need

- Paper and colored pencils

### Steps

1. Draw Assateague Island, the channel and Chincoteague Island (see your map from Trail A).

2. Mark: where the Phantom lived, where the swim happens, the Beebe ranch.
3. Draw small pictures of Paul, Maureen, the Phantom and Misty.
4. Number the places in the order they come in the story.

#### Check your work

- My story map has three places and four characters.
- I can retell the story using my map.

#### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Write a three-sentence summary of *Misty of Chincoteague* in your own words.
2. Draw Misty as a foal beside the Phantom.

**Did you know?** Paul and Maureen Beebe were real children, and Grandpa and Grandma Beebe were real too. Marguerite Henry bought the real Misty and took her home to Illinois for a while. A movie, *Misty*, was made in 1961.

**Goes deeper in.** Literature, “American Children’s Books” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Museum of Chincoteague Island; Marguerite Henry papers; American Library Association (Newbery Honor 1948). Published 1947 by Rand McNally. The real Misty was foaled in 1946 on the Beebe ranch (she was not born wild; the book’s Phantom story is fiction built on real people). The child text summarizes and does not quote the book, which is under copyright. Ending spoiler is kept vague on purpose.

#### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Who wrote *Misty of Chincoteague*?
2. **MEDIUM** Who are the two children in the story?
3. **EASY** Was Misty a real pony?

**Make it a game • Catch the Phantom.** One child is the Phantom, who runs free in the yard. The others are riders who must “round her up” by joining hands in a circle around her, without grabbing.

**Scripture.** “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven:” (Ecclesiastes 3:1, KJV)

In the story, there is a time to hold on and a time to let go. God gives wisdom for each season.

#### Practice: answers

1. Marguerite Henry.
2. Paul and Maureen Beebe.

3. Yes.

## 4.5 PONY PENNING DAY AND THE REAL MISTY

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Tell what happens on Pony Penning Day.
- Tell the true story of Misty after the book.
- Tell what is fact and what is fiction in the book.

**Warm-up.** Is a story true or made up if it has real people in it but some events invented? Let's find out about Misty.

**Video slot.** Video coming. The real Misty and her foal Stormy; Chincoteague Pony Penning. Search the Museum of Chincoteague Island, the Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **fiction**

A made-up story.

#### **nonfiction**

A true account.

#### **auction**

A sale where people bid against each other.

#### **taxidermy**

Preserving an animal's body after it dies so it can be seen.

### CORE IDEAS

On **Pony Penning Day**, the saltwater cowboys round up the wild ponies on Assateague and bring them across the channel. The next day, some foals are sold at **auction** to raise money for the volunteer fire company. The money helps the firemen care for the herd and protect the town.

The real **Misty** was born in 1946 on the Beebe family's ranch on Chincoteague, not on the wild island. Her mother was a pony called Phantom, and the book took the true people and places and added an exciting made-up adventure. That makes the book **fiction** built on real life.

After the book became famous, Misty went to live with Marguerite Henry in Illinois for some years. Children came from far away to meet her. Later she came home to the Beebe ranch and had foals. One foal, Stormy, was born in 1962 just after a terrible storm flooded the island, and she too became the star of a book.

Misty died in 1972. Today you can see Misty and Stormy at the Museum of Chincoteague Island, preserved by **taxidermy**, and a bronze statue of Misty stands in the town.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Misty statue, Chincoteague, Photograph, modern · Bronze statue (photograph) · Chincoteague, Virginia*  
Photo: Leonard J. DeFrancisci · [CC BY-SA 3.0](#) · [Wikimedia Commons](#)

This statue in Chincoteague honors Misty. Many children have patted its nose!

### Look closely

- Is the statue life-size?
- What does the pony seem to be doing?
- Where is it standing?

### Talk about it

1. Why do towns build statues?
2. What would you write on a sign beside this statue?

## HANDS-ON: FACT OR FICTION SORT

Sort facts about Misty into true and story.

### You will need

- Ten small slips of paper
- Two cups labeled FACT and FICTION

### Steps

1. Write these on slips: Misty was real. Paul and Maureen were real. Misty was born wild on Assateague. The Beebes had a ranch. Marguerite Henry visited in 1946. Stormy was born after a storm. Misty lived in Illinois for a time.
2. Read each slip and drop it in the right cup. (Only “born wild on Assateague” is fiction in the book’s sense; she was born on the ranch.)
3. Write one fact and one fiction of your own about a pony.

### Check your work

- I sorted the slips.
- I can explain the difference between fact and fiction.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Make a T-chart: “In the book” and “In real life.” Write two things on each side.
2. Draw the statue of Misty.

**Did you know?** After the great storm of March 1962, money from people who loved the Misty books helped rebuild the herd. Misty’s hoofprints were pressed into cement at a theater in Chincoteague in 1961. Pony Penning still happens every July.

**Goes deeper in.** Literature, “Fact and Fiction” (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Museum of Chincoteague Island (Misty and Stormy displayed); Chincoteague Volunteer Fire Company. Misty foaled 1946, died 1972; Stormy foaled 1962 after the Ash Wednesday Storm (March 1962), subject of Henry’s Stormy, Misty’s Foal (1963). The theater hoofprints and 1961 film are from local histories. Misty is described as preserved; parents may want to know before a museum visit.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What happens on Pony Penning Day?
2. **MEDIUM** Where was the real Misty born?
3. **EASY** Who was Stormy?

**Make it a game • Pony Auction.** Use play money. One child is the auctioneer and holds up a toy pony. Others bid: “one dollar!” “two!” The highest bidder “buys” the pony, and the money goes in a jar for the “fire company.”

**Scripture.** “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” (Psalm 46:1, KJV)

When the great storm of 1962 struck Chincoteague, people helped each other. God is our help in every storm.

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**Practice: answers**

1. The wild ponies swim across to Chincoteague and some foals are sold.
2. On the Beebe ranch on Chincoteague.
3. Misty's foal, born after the 1962 storm.

## 4.6 KING OF THE WIND AND THE GODOLPHIN ARABIAN

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who the Godolphin Arabian was.
- Retell the main idea of *King of the Wind*.
- Connect the story to the Thoroughbred (Trail A).

**Warm-up.** Look back at Trail A, Stop A3. Can you remember the three foundation sires of the Thoroughbred? One is the hero of this stop.

**Video slot.** Video coming. The Godolphin Arabian and the founding of the Thoroughbred. Search approved channels (National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket; Kentucky Horse Park); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### Godolphin Arabian

A real Arabian stallion of the 1700s, one of the three founders of the Thoroughbred breed.

#### sultan

A Muslim king. The Sultan of Morocco sent horses as gifts to the King of France.

#### loyalty

Staying faithful to someone through good and bad times.

#### Newbery Medal

The top American prize for a children's book.

### CORE IDEAS

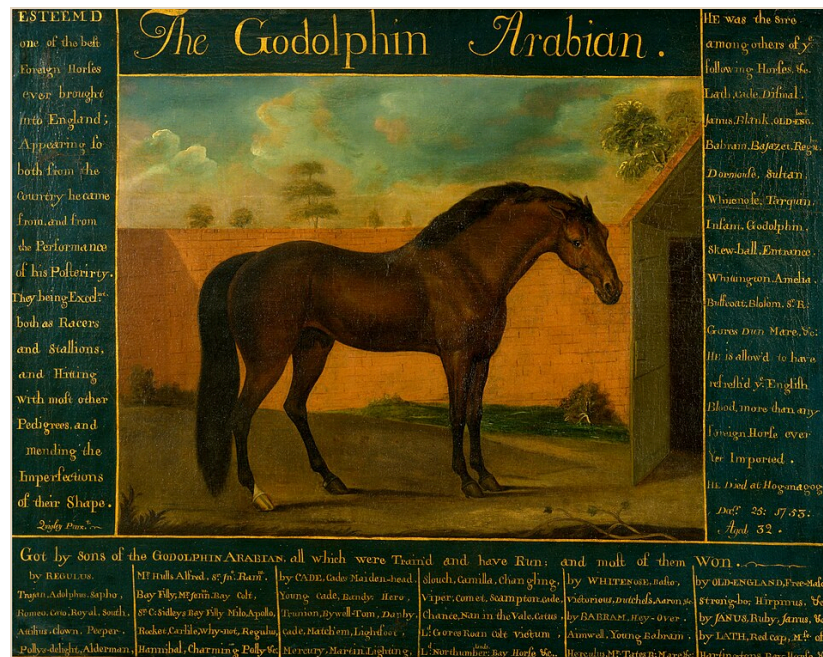
The **Godolphin Arabian** was a real horse, born about 1724. He came from North Africa and was taken to France, perhaps as a gift to the King. Later he reached England, where he belonged to the Earl of Godolphin. He became one of the three foundation sires of the Thoroughbred.

Marguerite Henry wrote his story in **King of the Wind** (1948), which won the **Newbery Medal**. In her book, a stable boy named Agba, who cannot speak, cares for the colt from the day he is born in the stables of the **Sultan** of Morocco.

In the book, Agba goes with the horse across the sea to France and then to England. The horse is mistreated and even pulls a cart for a time, but Agba never leaves him. His **loyalty** is the heart of the story. At last the horse's worth is seen when his foals turn out to be wonderful racehorses.

Parts of the book are history and parts are imagined. The book is still under copyright, so read it from the library to enjoy the whole tale.

## PICTURE STUDY



*The Godolphin Arabian*, Daniel Quigley, late 1700s · Oil on canvas · Wikimedia Commons (Google Art Project)

Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

This old picture shows the Godolphin Arabian as painters of his day saw him. Notice his strong, high-arched neck.

### Look closely

- What color is he?
- Look at his neck. What shape is it?
- Find the writing around the picture. What do you think it tells?

### Talk about it

1. Why would people paint a famous horse?
2. How does this horse connect to Seabiscuit and Secretariat?

## HANDS-ON: JOURNEY MAP

Map the Godolphin Arabian's journey.

### You will need

- A map of North Africa and Europe to copy
- Paper and colored pencils

### Steps

1. Draw Morocco, France and England.

2. Draw arrows: Morocco to France, France to England.
3. Mark Newmarket (the racing town) and Cambridge near it.
4. Write “Agba” beside the arrows, because in the book he made the whole journey with the horse.

### Check your work

- My map shows the journey in order.
- I can retell the story’s main idea.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Write one sentence about Agba’s loyalty.
2. Draw the horse and the cat.

**Did you know?** The real Godolphin Arabian is said to have had a cat as a stable friend. His grave is at Wandlebury, near Cambridge, England. The stud book names him the Godolphin Arabian, though some think he may have been a Barb from North Africa.

**Goes deeper in.** Horses Trail A, “The Thoroughbred,” and Literature (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: National Horseracing Museum, Newmarket; Britannica; American Library Association (Newbery Medal 1949 for *King of the Wind*, published 1948). The Godolphin Arabian (c. 1724–1753) is buried at Wandlebury Ring; the cat (Grimalkin) appears in period accounts. Whether he was an Arabian or a Barb is debated. The Morocco–France origin story is traditional; Henry’s book embellishes it. The book is summarized, not quoted.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Was the Godolphin Arabian a real horse?
2. **MEDIUM** Which breed did he help found?
3. **MEDIUM** What is the main virtue in *King of the Wind*?

**Make it a game • Follow the Leader.** One child is Agba, leading the “horse” child through an obstacle course. Agba must not let go and must help the horse past every obstacle.

**Scripture.** “A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.” (Proverbs 17:17, KJV)

Agba loved his horse through every hard time. A true friend is faithful in trouble.

### Practice: answers

1. Yes.

2. The Thoroughbred.

3. Loyalty (Agba never leaves the horse).

## 4.7 THE BLACK STALLION (1941)

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### OBJECTIVES

- Tell who wrote *The Black Stallion* and when.
- Retell the beginning of the story.
- Tell how a boy and a wild horse came to trust each other.

**Warm-up.** Imagine you were stranded on a desert island with a wild horse. How would you make friends with it?

**Video slot.** Video coming. Walter Farley and *The Black Stallion* (author background; family-safe). Search a library or literature channel; preview first. Avoid film clips unless a parent has reviewed them.

### KEY TERMS

#### Walter Farley

An American author (1915–1989) who began this story as a teenager.

#### shipwreck

When a ship sinks or is destroyed at sea.

#### trust

Believing someone will not hurt you and will keep their word.

#### series

A set of books about the same characters.

### CORE IDEAS

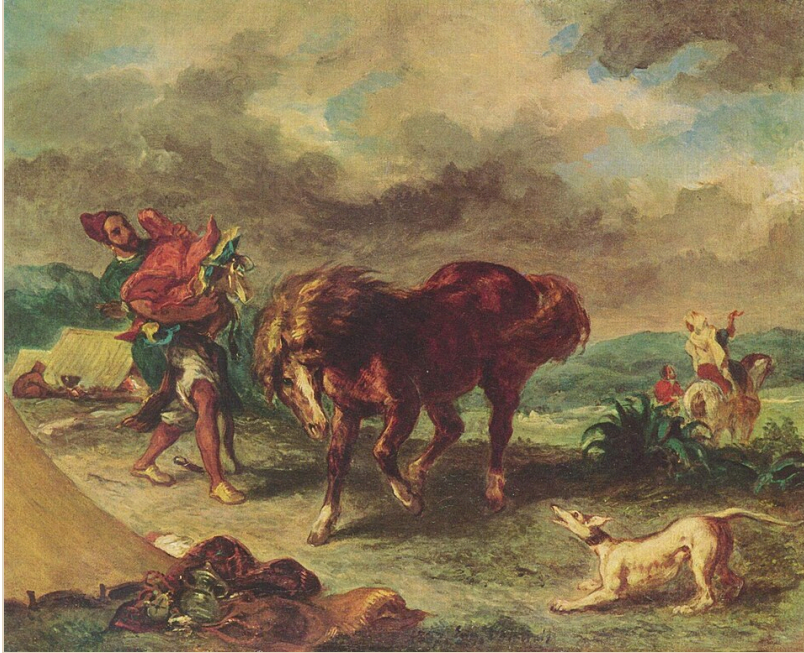
**Walter Farley** loved horses as a boy in New York. He began writing *The Black Stallion* while he was still in high school, and it was published in 1941, while he was a college student.

In the story, a boy named Alec Ramsay is sailing home from India when his ship is caught in a storm and sinks. On board is a wild black stallion. Alec and the horse both reach a small, empty island. At first the stallion is fierce and wild.

Slowly Alec earns the horse's **trust**. He shares seaweed and food with him, speaks gently, and at last the horse lets Alec ride him. When they are rescued and come to America, Alec and an old trainer named Henry prepare the Black for a great race.

Farley went on to write a whole **series** of Black Stallion books. They are still under copyright, so we tell the story in our own words. Borrow the book from the library to read it all.

## PICTURE STUDY



*Arab Saddling His Horse*, Eugène Delacroix, 1857 · Oil on canvas · Wikimedia Commons  
Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

The Black is an Arabian stallion. Eugène Delacroix traveled in North Africa and loved to paint spirited Arabian horses like this one, full of wind and motion. This horse is chestnut, not black, but it has the same wild spirit.

### Look closely

- Find the flowing mane and tail.
- Is the horse calm or wild?
- What colors did the painter use?

### Talk about it

1. How could a person make friends with a horse like this?
2. What do patience and trust have in common?

## HANDS-ON: ISLAND SURVIVAL PLAN

Plan how Alec and the Black could survive on the island.

### You will need

- Paper and pencil
- Optional: a sand tray and toy horse

### Steps

1. Draw a small island with a beach, rocks, a spring and a cave.
2. List what Alec needs: water, food, shelter, fire, a signal.
3. List what the horse needs.
4. Write three steps Alec could take to earn the horse's trust.
5. Tell the beginning of the story using your map.

### Check your work

- My island map has five places.
- I wrote three trust steps.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Write a three-sentence summary of the beginning of *The Black Stallion* in your own words.
2. Draw Alec and the Black on the beach.

**Did you know?** Farley wrote more than thirty horse books. The Black Stallion's name in the book is Shêtân, an Arabic word. Many young readers became riders after reading Farley's books.

**Goes deeper in.** Literature, "American Children's Books" (coming soon).

**For families.** Sources: Britannica; Random House (publisher, 1941). Farley began the book in high school and it was published while he was at Columbia University. The book includes a shipwreck and some danger; the summary is gentle. The book is under copyright and is summarized, not quoted. The 1979 film is not recommended here without parental review.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** Who wrote *The Black Stallion*?
2. **MEDIUM** How did Alec and the Black reach the island?
3. **MEDIUM** How did Alec earn the horse's trust?

**Make it a game • Trust Walk.** One child is blindfolded (the "horse"). A partner leads with gentle words only, no pulling, across the room. Switch.

**Scripture.** "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." (Proverbs 15:1, KJV)

Alec's soft voice calmed a fierce horse. Gentle words calm angry people too.

### Practice: answers

1. Walter Farley.

2. Their ship sank in a storm, and they both made it to the island.
3. By being patient and gentle, speaking softly and sharing food.

## 4.8 WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE YOUR OWN HORSE STORY

---

### OBJECTIVES

- Plan a story with a beginning, middle and end.
- Write and illustrate a short horse story.
- Share it aloud.

**Warm-up.** Think about all the horses on this trail: Black Beauty, Misty, the Godolphin Arabian, the Black. What made their stories exciting?

**Video slot.** Video coming. How to draw a horse step by step for children. Search approved art channels (Art for Kids Hub, Draw with Jazza vetted per video); preview first.

### KEY TERMS

#### **character**

A person or animal in a story.

#### **setting**

Where and when a story happens.

#### **problem**

The trouble that the characters must solve.

#### **illustrate**

To draw pictures for a story.

### CORE IDEAS

Every good story has a **character**, a **setting** and a **problem**. In *Black Beauty*, the character is a horse, the setting is England long ago, and the problem is how people treat horses. In *Misty*, the problem is catching the Phantom.

Now it is your turn. Who is your horse? Give it a name, a color and markings (remember Trail A). Where does it live: a farm, a ranch, an island, a city long ago?

What goes wrong? Maybe a storm, a lost foal, a race to win or a friend in danger. How does the horse, or a child, solve the problem with courage, patience or kindness?

Write your story in five to eight sentences, or tell it while a grown-up writes it down. Then **illustrate** it with at least three pictures, like Wesley Dennis did for Marguerite Henry. Read it aloud to your family!

## PICTURE STUDY



*Mares and Foals in a River Landscape*, George Stubbs, about 1763–1768 · Oil on canvas · Tate Britain, London

Wikimedia Commons · Public domain

George Stubbs painted mares and their foals together in a peaceful scene. Every horse is different. Could one of them be the hero of your story?

### Look closely

- Count the mares and the foals.
- Pick one horse and describe its color and markings.
- What is the setting?

### Talk about it

1. Which horse would you choose for a story? Why?
2. What problem could happen in this peaceful place?

## HANDS-ON: MY HORSE STORY BOOK

Write and illustrate a small book.

### You will need

- Three sheets of paper folded in half and stapled (a 12-page book)
- Pencil, colored pencils

### Steps

1. Plan: write your horse's name, setting and problem on scrap paper.

2. Page 1: title and your name as author and illustrator.
3. Pages 2–3: the beginning (meet the horse). Pages 4–7: the middle (the problem). Pages 8–10: the end (how it is solved).
4. Draw a picture on every page or every other page.
5. Read it aloud to your family.

### Check your work

- My story has a character, setting and problem.
- It has a beginning, middle and end.
- I illustrated at least three pages.

### FIELD NOTEBOOK

1. Write your story plan: name, setting, problem, solution.
2. Paste in your favorite illustration.

**Did you know?** Walter Farley started his famous book as a teenager. Anna Sewell told part of her book aloud to her mother. Marguerite Henry often visited the real places and horses before writing.

**Goes deeper in.** Composition, “Writing a Story” (coming soon).

**For families.** Mares and Foals in a River Landscape (about 1763–68) is at Tate Britain. Children who cannot yet write may dictate; parents can bind the story for the Trail D certificate. “Inditing” means composing.

### PRACTICE

1. **EASY** What three things does every story need?
2. **EASY** What does “illustrate” mean?
3. **MEDIUM** Name a virtue your horse or child shows in your story.

**Make it a game • Story Chain.** Sit in a circle. One person starts a horse story with one sentence. Each person adds a sentence. The last person must end it!

**Scripture.** “My heart is inditing a good matter: I speak of the things which I have made touching the king: my tongue is the pen of a ready writer.” (Psalm 45:1, KJV)

The psalmist loved to write good things. Our stories can be good, true and beautiful too.

#### Practice: answers

1. A character, a setting and a problem.
2. To draw pictures for a story.

3. Answers will vary: courage, patience, kindness, loyalty.

## TRAIL 4 BADGE QUIZ

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The badge quiz is optional. Read each question aloud; the child may answer by talking, pointing or drawing. Four right out of five earns the first badge; three right out of four earns the second. Badges and the certificate are earned by doing the stops, not by scores.

### Badge quiz 1 (Stops 1-5)

1. Who wrote *Black Beauty*?
2. What was the strap that held horses' heads high called?
3. Say Proverbs 12:10 (first half).
4. Who wrote *Misty of Chincoteague*?
5. Was the real Misty born wild?

### Badge quiz 2 (Stops 6-8)

6. Which real horse is the hero of *King of the Wind*?
7. Where were Alec and the Black stranded?
8. What three things does every story need?
9. Read your horse story aloud.

## TRAIL CERTIFICATE: MY HORSE STORY BOOK AND TRAIL D CERTIFICATE

Finish your own illustrated horse story (Stop D8).

Add a page listing the horse books you heard or read on this trail.

When the book is done, a parent signs the Trail D certificate.

- **Story:** A beginning, middle and end with a problem solved.
- **Pictures:** At least three illustrations.
- **Reading list:** Books from the trail listed.
- **Care:** Neat and finished.

### Answer key

1. Anna Sewell.
2. The bearing rein.
3. "A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast."
4. Marguerite Henry.
5. No, on the Beebe ranch on Chincoteague.
6. The Godolphin Arabian.
7. On a small island after a shipwreck.
8. Character, setting, problem.
9. Any finished story.