



# HORSE

## — Elementary



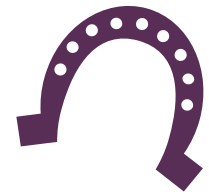
Oklahoma is home to over 300,000 horses. The domestication of horses improved transportation, farming, communication, and warfare. Horses did hard work on the farm before tractors were invented. Horses are still used for some work today, but they are mostly used for sport or recreation.



There are over 350 different breeds of horses. They fall into four main groups: light horses, draft horses, ponies, and feral horses. Horses are a variety of colors. They can be solid or a mixture of colors. Most horses live to be 20-25 years old, but some do live longer than 30 years.



Horses who work or travel on hard roads also need shoes for their feet. A farrier puts the metal horseshoes on the horse, which help protect the horse's hooves.



### FUN FACTS!

A horse is measured in hands. A 'hand' is equal to 4 inches.

Within 1-2 hours of birth, a foal is able to stand up and walk.

The four natural gaits for the horse are the walk, trot, canter, and gallop.

# MEASURING IN HANDS











Horses are measured by the hand, from the ground to the withers. The withers are the high part of the horse's back, between the shoulder blades. The average width of a man's hand is four inches.

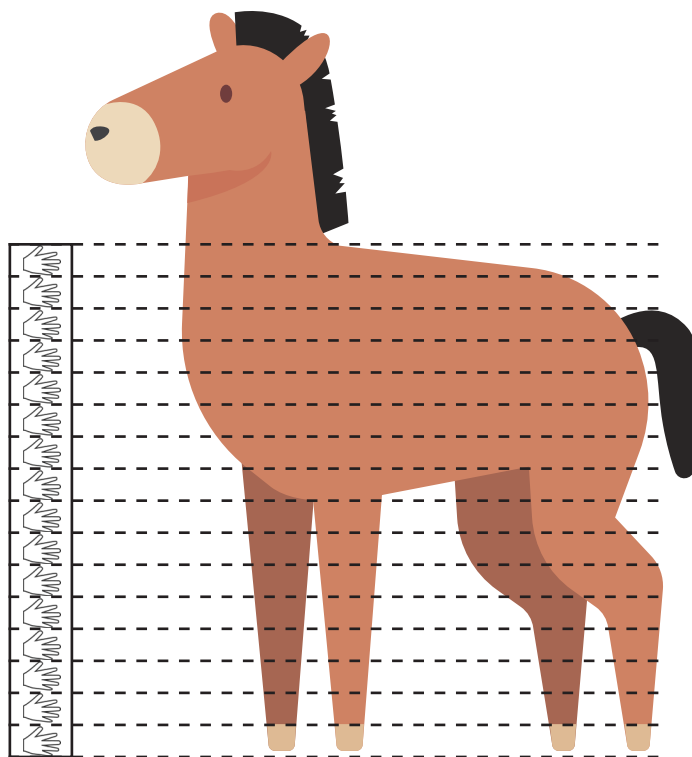
A horse must be 14.2 hands tall to be called a horse. Anything shorter is a pony.

1. Count the hands in the picture. The animal in the picture is \_\_\_\_\_ hands tall. Is it a horse or a pony? \_\_\_\_\_

2. Stand with your back to the wall and get your partner to place tape on the wall just above your head. Use a yardstick or meter stick to measure from the floor to the tape. How tall are you?  
\_\_\_\_\_ hands

3. Draw a picture of yourself in the space below. Use the hands to draw yourself at the correct height.



4. On another sheet of paper, trace your hand. Use a ruler to measure the widest part of your hand below your fingers. How wide is your hand?  
\_\_\_\_\_

## HORSE VOCAB TO KNOW

Stallion: Male horse

Mare: Female horse

Foal: Baby horse

Filly: Young female horse

Colt: Young male horse

Yearling: Horse that is 1 year old