



HORSE

MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL



Oklahoma is home to over 300,000 horses and ranks 4th in the United States in total number of horses. The domestication of horses advanced communications, transportation, food production, and warfare. Horses were often one of the only sources of power on the farm before tractors and modern technology were invented. Today, horses are still used for work, but are more commonly used for recreation and sport.



There are over 350 different breeds of horses. They fall into four main groups: light horses, draft horses, ponies, and feral horses. Light horses are smaller boned than draft horses and weigh less than 1,300 pounds. Some common light horse breeds are Quarter Horses, Thoroughbreds, and Arabians. Draft horses are known for their strength and size. They can weigh up to 2,000 pounds. Common draft horse breeds are Clydesdales, Percherons, and Shires. Ponies are smaller horses less than 14.2 hands tall. Common breeds of ponies are Shetlands and Haflingers. Feral horses are light horses, but they are wild or semi-wild. Mustangs are feral horses.



Horses are a variety of colors. They can be solid or a mixture of colors. The most commonly recognized solid colors are bay, black, brown, chestnut, dun, palomino, or grey. When a horse has a mixture of colors, the common patterns are roan or spotted. The average life span of a horse is 20-25 years, but some do live longer than 30 years. It is possible to determine a horse's age fairly accurately up to 10 years old by their teeth. First teeth, permanent teeth, the presence of incisor teeth, and length and slope of the teeth all help indicate a horse's age.

Horses who work or travel on hard roads need their hooves protected by metal shoes. Horses' hooves, like our fingernails and toenails, grow continuously and need to be trimmed. To do this, the horses' shoes need to be removed and their hooves trimmed every 4-6 weeks. After trimming their hooves, new shoes are fitted. The person who cares for a horse's hooves is called a farrier or blacksmith.

LEARN ABOUT HORSE BREEDS



Scan the QR code to search through a list of over 100 horse breeds.

What is a unique characteristic of the Appaloosa breed?

What type of horse is a Clydesdale? What is the most common color?

What are the two main color patterns for an American Paint Horse?

Where was the Quarter Horse developed? Why do they have the name they do?

HORSES ANAGRAM

Unscramble the letters to find the words for the anagram.

Hidden word (circled letters)

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_____ h e r s (o)
_____ o t t r
_____ d w a o o b (l) r m
_____ e (a) a c n l b
_____ l i t a
_____ a e (l) r f
_____ e i n o s (p)
_____ l f o a
_____ a t (g) i
_____ s o o e h v

What is the Thoroughbred breed famous for?

What were Shetland ponies used for in the 1800s?
