



# Equine Science

A Study of the Horse for Grades 3-7



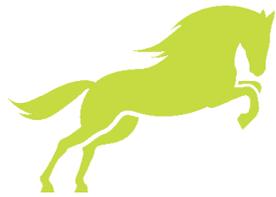
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“Horse lends us the wings we lack.”

- Pam Brown

# Equine Science

## Science for 3rd to 7th Grade

### How to Use This Program

Welcome to Equine Science! This year, you'll be learning just about everything there is to know about horses. You'll discover their physical characteristics, learn about their movements and the biomechanics of how they move, how to care for horses, what kinds of environments they require and how you can provide it, and even how horses think and learn! There are so many great scientific topics. Here are the key components of this program.

### Resource List

#### Science Books:

##### Complete Horse Care Manual

ISBN: 978-0756671600

##### Horse Gaits, Balance & Movement

ISBN: 978-1681626369

##### Album of Horses

ISBN: 978-1481442589

##### How to Think Like a Horse

ISBN: 978-1580178358

#### Interactive Resources:

##### Your Horse Notebooks

##### Horse Crazy

##### Horse Anatomy Coloring Book

ISBN: 978-0486448138

##### Draw 50 Horses

ISBN: 78-0823085811

**The Science Books** are scheduled for you each week. A student can read these independently, if they are working on their own, or they can be read aloud and discussed with other students or a parent.

**Interactive Resources** are sometimes used as assignments, sometimes given for reading, and some are activities. Activities are optional; all other assignments should be considered essential, unless marked as optional, with the exception of assignments in the "Expanding the Study" boxes.

Note: The activities in the Horse Notebook are generally more boy-focused or neutral, while those in "Horse Crazy" are more girl-focused, but we do offer some ways to adjust these activities for boy interests.

**Expanding the Study** offers direction if a student wants to do more than just science study, using Equine Science as a spine. Though the suggestions are not fully scheduled, and may not fit every student, they do provide help if a student would like to do some fictional reading about horses, and integrate their horse study into writing projects. Please note that the literature suggestions are chosen primarily for students 5th grade and above; there are any number of simpler "horse" stories readily available for early readers.

**Note:** The book "Riding for Kids" is scheduled in the "Expanding the Study" boxes for those students who are too young to fully engage with the book, "Horse Gaits, Balance, and Movement," or who really want to know more about the basics of riding, which is not really covered in the main study. The basics of riding are not covered primarily because this is a science study, and we wished to offer a study in which having access to a horse was not necessitated to fully enjoy the program. Nevertheless, with or without a horse, this book is excellent.

Buying information: Author: Judy Richter ISBN: 978-1-58017-510-4

# Equine Science

## Key Resources

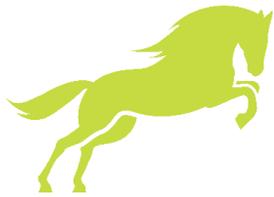
### Your Horse Notebooks

As mentioned on the previous page, your horse notebook is a key resource for your year. It is consumable, so you'll need one per student. Its 360+ pages offer reading on topics included in the books, but also includes other topics not covered elsewhere, and provides interactive pages for students to practice and show what they've learned from day to day. Here are some highlights of this resource:

- Overview and summary of weekly topics and concepts
- Factual reading sections that take you beyond topics covered in science books
- Interactive journaling pages truly intriguing to complete
- "Try-it-yourself" pages that allow students to help horses, even without a horse, alongside the veterinarian, Dr. Olson; the farmer, Mr. Brandon; and riding school instructor, Miss Winnie. Students will do all sorts of things without leaving home -- from deciding what Mr. Brandon's horses need based upon their activity levels to helping Dr. Olson diagnose problems with his horse patients!
- Pages for sketching the horses in the drawing book
- Learning pages that share how to do things for and with horses
- "Horses in History" sections help unfold how horses have impacted human societies
- Timeline figures, provided in full color, can be affixed to included Timeline pages
- Suggested activity pages that are active or more "guy-focused" than those in other resources
- Artist-focused pages that introduce students to masters of equestrian art, art reproduced in full color
- Introduction to the work of activists, writers, doctors and other professionals whose work with horses, or for horses, has changed our world
- Open pages that students can "build" themselves, and personalize their notebook
- Breed profile pages to help students get to know horses from around the world
- Glossary of equestrian terms your student will encounter
- Life list of horse breeds students can begin keeping for themselves
- Colored pages section includes pictures to affix to key pages to create a full-color notebook

### Outline of Suggested Literature for Expanding the Study:

Week 2	Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz	(1 Weeks)
Weeks 3-6	Older students (Gr 9+): The Red Pony by John Steinbeck (Though classic literature, includes swearing.) Younger/sensitive students: Great Horse Stories compiled by James Daley.	(4 Weeks)
Weeks 7-11	Black Horses for the King by Anne McCaffrey.	(5 Weeks)
Weeks 12-15	Justin Morgan Had a Horse by Marguerite Henry	(4 Weeks)
Weeks 16-18	Brightly of the Grand Canyon by Marguerite Henry	(3 Weeks)
Weeks 19-24	Black Beauty by Anna Sewell	(6 Weeks)
Weeks 25-28	Black Stallion by Walter Farley	(4 Weeks)
Weeks 29-33	My Friend Flicka by Mary O'Hara	(5 Weeks)
Weeks 34-36	Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry	(3 Weeks)





# Weekly Science Topics

## The Physical Horse

### BOOK 1

- Week 1: The Horse
- Week 2: The Physical Horse
- Week 3: The Horse's Body Systems
- Week 4: A Horse's Skeleton

## The Horse in Motion

- Week 5: The Horse in Motion
- Week 6: The Gaits of a Horse
- Week 7: More Gaits of a Horse
- Week 8: Gait Qualities & Good Movement
- Week 9: A Horse's Balance
- Week 10: Types of Movement
- Week 11: Conformation and the Rider

### BOOK 2

- Week 12: Improving Your Horse's Movement

## Caring for Your Horse

- Week 13: A Horse's Hooves and Teeth
- Week 14: Feeding a Horse
- Week 15: A Healthy Horse
- Week 16: Grooming a Horse
- Week 17: The Working Horse

- Week 18: A Field for Your Horse
- Week 19: The Stabled Horse

## The Healthy Horse

- Week 20: Recognizing a Sick Horse
- Week 21: Caring for a Sick Horse
- Week 22: Saddles & Bridles & Bits
- Week 23: Horse Colors and Markings
- Week 24: Horse Breeds

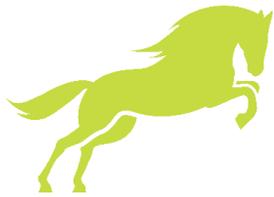
### BOOK 3

- Week 25: Thinking Like a Horse
- Week 26: Vision and Hearing of the Horse
- Week 27: Other Senses of the Horse
- Week 28: The Herd
- Week 29: A Horse's Daily Routine
- Week 30: Good and Bad Behavior
- Week 31: Foals and Young Horses
- Week 32: The Life of a Horse

## Communicating in "Horse"

- Week 33: Understanding Horse Body Lingo
- Week 34: Communicating to Your Horse
- Week 35: How Your Horse Learns
- Week 36: Training and Changing Behavior





# EQUINE SCIENCE

## Week 1 - Introducing the Horse

### DAY 1

#### **Complete Horse Care Manual |**

Looking at the Horse

Development of the Horse

Read Pages 6-11

#### **Horse Crazy |**

Bring Your Horse to School - Read Pages 72-76

How to Draw Horses - Read Pages 294-303

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Read "The Horse" - Page 6

Complete "Four Basic Horse Types" - Page 7

Complete "Classification of Horses" - Page 8

### DAY 2

#### **Complete Horse Care Manual |**

Types of Horse

Read Pages 12-13

#### **Horse Crazy |**

Bring Your Horse to School - Read Pages 77-81

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Read "All Things Equus" - Page 10

Complete "What Do You Know?" - Page 11

Complete "Identify & Classify" - Page 12

### ACTIVITIES & LITERATURE

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Time to Draw - Page 9

#### **Horse Crazy |**

Tips on Drawing Horses - Pages 294-303

Use these tips to draw a horse, or one of the horses in your notebook. These tips can help you all year.

#### **Literature Suggestions |**

Each week this year, starting next week, you'll have suggestions on specific literature titles to read.

### ACTIVITIES & LITERATURE

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Time to Draw - Page 13

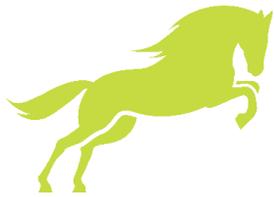
#### **Writing Suggestions |**

Most weeks this year, starting next week, you'll have suggestions for creative writing, if you would be interested in adding these to your language arts.

## NOTES

#### **Literature & Writing |**

Literature and writing suggestions begin next week.



# EQUINE SCIENCE

## Week 2 - The Physical Horse

### DAY 1

#### **Complete Horse Care Manual |**

Physical Features - Read Pages 16-17

#### **Horse Crazy |**

Horses & Humans - Read Pages 18-19

#### **Horse Anatomy |**

Color Picture #2 - Points of the Horse

After you complete this, quiz yourself on the points of the horse by covering up the answers.

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Read "Keeping Horses" & "Conformation"- Page 14

Complete "How to Measure . . . Height" - Page 15

Complete "Label a Horse's Points" - Page 16

### DAY 2

#### **How to Think Like a Horse |**

Parts of a Horse - See Pages 172-173

#### **Horse Anatomy |**

Color Picture #30 - Conformation

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

"Name That Horse Point" Poster - Pages 17-18

(Rip out this poster and practice finding horse points.)

#### **Timeline** - Read Notebook Page 20, and place

Figure 1 on the timeline in the back

### ACTIVITIES & LITERATURE

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Cave Painting on a Rock - Page 21

Finger paint such as ancient people would have.

#### **Literature Suggestions |**

Leonardo's Horse by Jean Fritz

The story of Leonardo da Vinci's idea to sculpt a bronze horse, and how it was finished at last.

### ACTIVITIES & LITERATURE

#### **My Horse Notebook | Book 1: The Horse**

Time to Draw - Page 19

#### **Writing Suggestions |**

Write a poem that praises the physical appearance of the horse.

## NOTES

#### **Parent Note |**

There is a reference to "millions of years" in "Horse Crazy" pages 18-19. Creation scientists also support an ice age, but that it was much more recent. Talk about this passage. Also "Horse Gaits" p. 1 has a

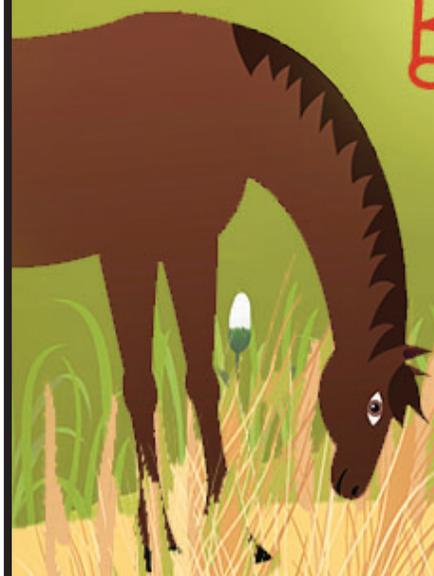
"millions of years" reference as well.



# The Horse



## Body & Motion



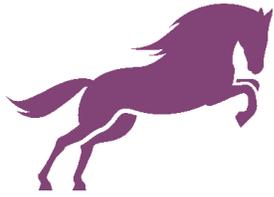
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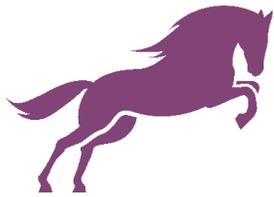
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When I bestride him, I soar, I am a hawk:  
He trots the air;  
the earth sings when he touches it;  
the basest horn of his hoof is more musical  
than the pipe of Hermes.

- William Shakespeare, English playwright





# Equestrian Topics



## The Physical Horse

The Horse	6
The Physical Horse	14
The Horse's Body Systems	22
A Horse's Skeleton	28

## The Horse in Motion

The Horse in Motion	36
The Gaits of a Horse	44
More Gaits of a Horse	54
Gait Qualities & Good Movement	62
A Horse's Balance	70
Types of Movement	80
Conformation and the Rider	90





## Graceful and Strong

Horses are wonderfully spirited creatures who have worked and lived alongside humans for centuries. This year, you'll learn all about this adaptable and industrious animal: how it moves and works, what it eats and needs, and even what it thinks! You'll learn about what it takes to care for these animals, and discover new breeds from around the world!

## Horses in the Fossil Record

Horses today are descendants of earlier breeds, some of which are now extinct. Fossils of ancient breeds are found in the same rock strata, so some of these breeds lived at the same time. Unique horse breeds from the past have died out over many years because of changes in climate, habitat, catastrophes, or pressures from predators or human activity.

Some ancient horse breeds include the tiny Eohippus (now renamed Hyracotherium), Dinohippus, Mesohippus, Miohippus, Merychippus, and Pliohippus. These horse breeds are all extinct. Today we appreciate many breeds of the modern Equidae family -- the modern horse (Equus), the zebra, donkey, and more.



Eohippus (Hyracotherium)



Dinohippus



Mesohippus



Miohippus



Merychippus



Pliohippus



# Four Basic Types of Horses

It seems likely that four basic types of horses, now extinct, were the ancestors of modern day breeds. Today's horse breeds are the result of intentional cross-breeding, and accidental, or natural cross-breeding. When two horses who are slightly different produce a colt together, its colt will carry some features from each parent. Many times humans have deliberately bred horses to try to create a new horse breed that would be able to do something better or withstand certain rugged conditions. In nature, too, horses also produce young with horses outside their breed. In this way, new breeds are created accidentally.

## Here are the four basic types of horses:

**Horse Type 1** This pony ancestor had a thick coat and bushy mane, with a thick tail to protect itself from the cold weather in northwest Europe, where it lived. It was the smallest of the types, around 12 hands in height.

**Horse Type 2** This pony was also resistant to cold, since it lived in northern Europe and Asia. Its body was heavy. This horse was slightly bigger than the first pony type, likely growing to 14 hands.

**Horse Type 3** In the desert of central Asia lived the third basic type of horse. Its slender build and lighter, fine coat were perfect for its warm climate home, since it could cool down more rapidly than the heavy-coated ponies. This horse type was 15 hands when full-grown.

**Horse Type 4** This horse type lived in western Asia, and was fine-boned like the Arabian horses that descended from this type of horse. An adult horse of this type was likely 14-15 hands in height.

## Fill out the chart below with information about the four basic types of horses

BASIC TYPES	Pony Type 1	Pony Type 2	Horse Type 3	Horse Type 4
Appearance				
Location				
Size				





# Classification of Horses

## Identification and Classification

As you begin studying horses, you need to learn two important scientific skills: identification and classification. When you identify a horse, you take note of the characteristics of the horse that make it unique or different from other horses. Once you've identified these characteristics, you can classify the horse according to its breed.

For example, the Shire is a breed that is easy to identify. The Shire is bigger and broader than any other horse, and has long hair that starts at their knees and swings down to their hooves. Observing these characteristics and identifying them, would allow you to classify the Shire as -- yep -- a Shire!

Below, paste in the colored pictures as indicated below. Then, identify each horse's characteristics, and classify it as either an Arabian or an Appaloosa. Arabians hold their tails high, have a small muzzle and delicate head, and can be bay, gray (and so light gray they appear white), chestnut, black and roan, and sometimes have a few spots on their shoulder or hindquarters. An Appaloosa is known for its sturdy body and spotted coat. Spots usually appear in large areas, or all over the coat.

Paste in  
Colored Picture  
8-A

Paste in  
Colored Picture  
8-B

## Classifications

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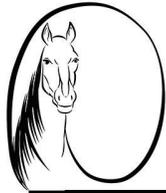
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Circle It: Appaloosa or Arabian

Circle It: Appaloosa or Arabian





# Time to Draw

Przewalski's Horse is the only surviving species from ancient times.  
Draw the horse from the "Przewalski's Horse" page in your drawing book.

# All Things Equus

## From the Family Equidae

*Equus* is a genus of animals in the family *Equidae*. The *Equus* genus includes horses, donkeys, and zebras. The *Equus* genus is the sole surviving genus in *Equidae*; all other 36 are extinct.

Any biological species is classified according to biological classification in which there are categories that group species according to shared physical characteristics. This system divides all of life into seven major ranks: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species. The most basic rank is species; the ranks above species get larger and larger, with more diverse animals being part of that group.

It was Carolus Linnaeus, a Swedish botanist and zoologist, who laid the foundations for this biological classification. He published the book the *Systema Naturae* in 1735, in which he used five ranks: class, order, genus, species, and variety. This was an entirely new way of classifying animals, was shorter and more defined, and quickly became standard. Our modern seven-rank system was an improvement of Linnaeus' system. Linnaeus' biological classification was essential to the field of taxonomy, in which scientists describe and name living or fossil plants or animals.

Take a look at the classification of subgenus and species within the genus *Equus*: (Each subgenus and equus that includes only extinct species, and extinct species are not listed.)

## Genus *Equus*

### Subgenus *Equus*

*Equus ferus* - Wild horse

Includes 2 living species: Domestic horse, Przewalski's Horse or Mongolian Wild Horse

### Subgenus *Asinus*

*Equus africanus* - African Wild Ass

Includes 3 living species: Nubian Wild Ass, Domestic Donkey, Somali Wild Ass

*Equinus hemionus* - Onager or Asiatic Ass

Includes 4 living species: Mongolian Wild Ass, Indian Wild Ass (Khur), Turkmenian Kulan, Persian Onager

*Equus kiang* - Kiang

Includes 4 living species: Northern Kiang, Western Kiang, Eastern Kiang, Southern Kiang

### Subgenus *Dolichohippus*

*Equus grevyi*

Includes 1 living species: Grevy's Zebra

### Subgenus *Hippotigris*

*Equus Quagga* - Plains Zebra

Includes 5 living species: Grant's, Selous', Chapman's, Crawshay's, and Burchell's Zebras

*Equus Zebra* - Mountain Zebra

Includes 2 living species: Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, Cape Mountain Zebra

# What Do You Know?

Write in below the species that are a part of each subgenus.

## Genus *Equus*

### Subgenus *Equus*

*Equus ferus* - Wild horse

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### Subgenus *Asinus*

*Equus africanus* - African Wild Ass

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*Equus hemionus* - Onager or Asiatic Ass

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*Equus kiang* - Kiang

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### Subgenus *Dolichohippus*

*Equus grevyi*

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### Subgenus *Hippotigris*

*Equus Quagga* - Plains Zebra

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*Equus Zebra* - Mountain Zebra

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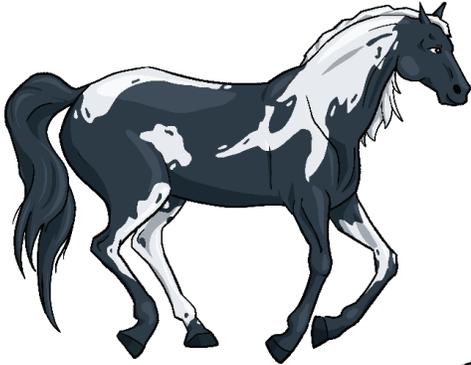
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# Identify & Classify

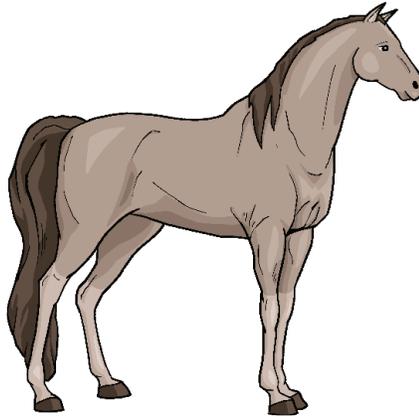
Based upon the physical characteristics of the horses below, write in the name of the horse you think is most likely to correctly answer each question.



**Thunder**



**Rocky**



**Meadow**

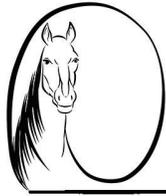
- Which horse is most likely to be accustomed to saddle riding? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse could be a splotchy breed like an American Paint? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse is most likely to be able to pull a heavy weight? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse would be most likely to do well in a race? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse would likely be owned by a farmer? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse is most likely to be untamed? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which horse would measure to the largest hand height? \_\_\_\_\_

Remember, any biological species is classified according to biological classification that divides all of life into seven major ranks: kingdom, phylum, class, order, family, genus, species.

**To help remember these divisions, why not remember this unusual sentence?**

King	Phyllo's	class	ordered his	family	generous	special food helpings.
<b>kingdom</b>	<b>phylum</b>	<b>class</b>	<b>order</b>	<b>family</b>	<b>genus</b>	<b>species</b>





# Time to Draw

As part of what you are learning, you'll learn to draw horses in all sorts of poses.  
Draw the horse from the "Portrait, Frontal View" page in your drawing book.





## Keeping Horses

Early in human history, people learned to keep herds of all types of useful animals: sheep, goats, cattle, and oxen. At some point they also learned how to tame and keep horses, and train them to be ridden and perform useful tasks. Horses, they found, could help to herd and move other smaller animals, so their owner could keep more animals. Horses, like oxen, could haul heavy loads, be fastened to wheeled machines like carts, and help their owners perform all kinds of agriculture tasks. Though horses ate a lot, and required a lot of care, they earned their keep in the work they did.

As an owner cared for a horse, they had to know how to care for it. Responsible owners learned the points of their horses, and used what they knew to keep their horses in the best condition they could. This week you are going to learn all about the points of a horse. The points of a horse are the names by which we know the physical characteristics of a horse. By learning the proper name for each part of a horse, you'll be a better student of horses, and someday, if you own a horse of your own, a better horsekeeper.



## Conformation? What's That?

As you learn about horses, you'll hear the word **conformation** on a regular basis. Conformation is the relationship between the structure of a horse, and its function. The better a horse looks in combination with how well it functions, the better its conformation. The ideal horse features both good looks and good performance; a horse with these qualities is said to have good conformation.

In the wild, good conformation helped horses outrun danger, find food and water, and stay in good physical condition. For the tamed horse, good conformation allows horses to work long and hard without strain, perform tasks for which it is bred without injury, and stay generally healthy and happy.

As you learn about the points of a horse, this will help you later as you learn more about conformation. Understanding good conformation will assist you in buying the right horse of your own someday, or just make you a great judge of "good horseflesh," as the saying goes.

# How to Measure a Horse's Height

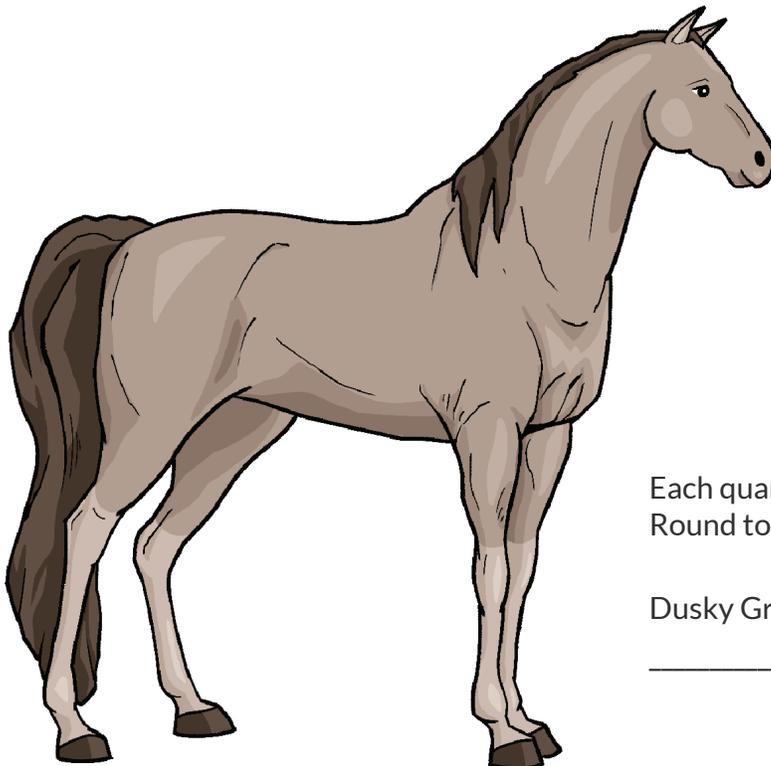
One of the first ways you can get to know your horse is to understand how to measure its size. It is helpful to know a horse's height, since this is how you describe your horse, judge its size for tack or clothing, and share the information with others who need to know its size, such as judges at a horse show.

A horse's height is measured in a unit of measure known as a hand. This type of measurement dates back centuries, when the width of a man's hand was used one atop the other, from the ground to the horse's shoulder, to determine the horse's size. Today, a hand has been standardized to four inches or 10.16 centimeters. This measurement is abbreviated "h" for hand, or "hh" for the plural, hands.

To determine how many hands high a horse is, he should be measured without horseshoes (if possible), from the ground to the highest point of the withers. The horse should be measured in inches, and these inches divided by four to discover how many hands high he is. Hands are generally rounded to the nearest hand, half-hand (2 inches), or quarter hand (1 inch).

So, if a horse is 65 inches tall, he is 16 1/4 hands in height.

**Measure how many hands high Dusky Gray is from his withers to the bottom of his front foot nearest to you.**



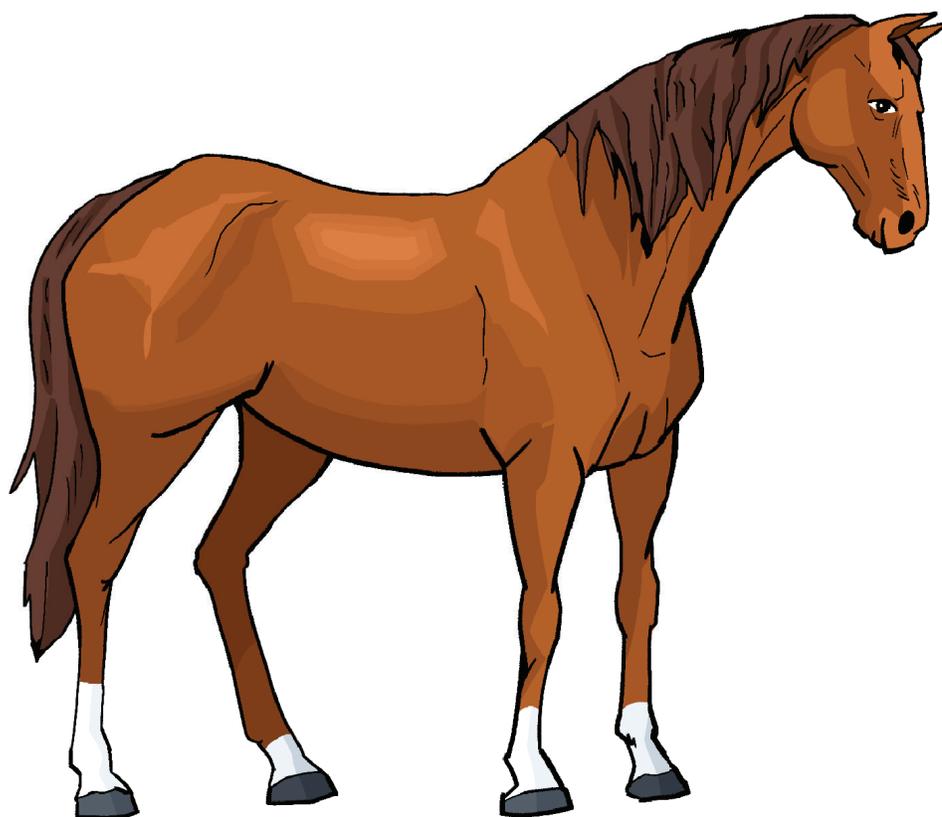
Each quarter inch - 1 hand.  
Round to the nearest whole hand.

Dusky Gray is \_\_\_\_\_ hands high.

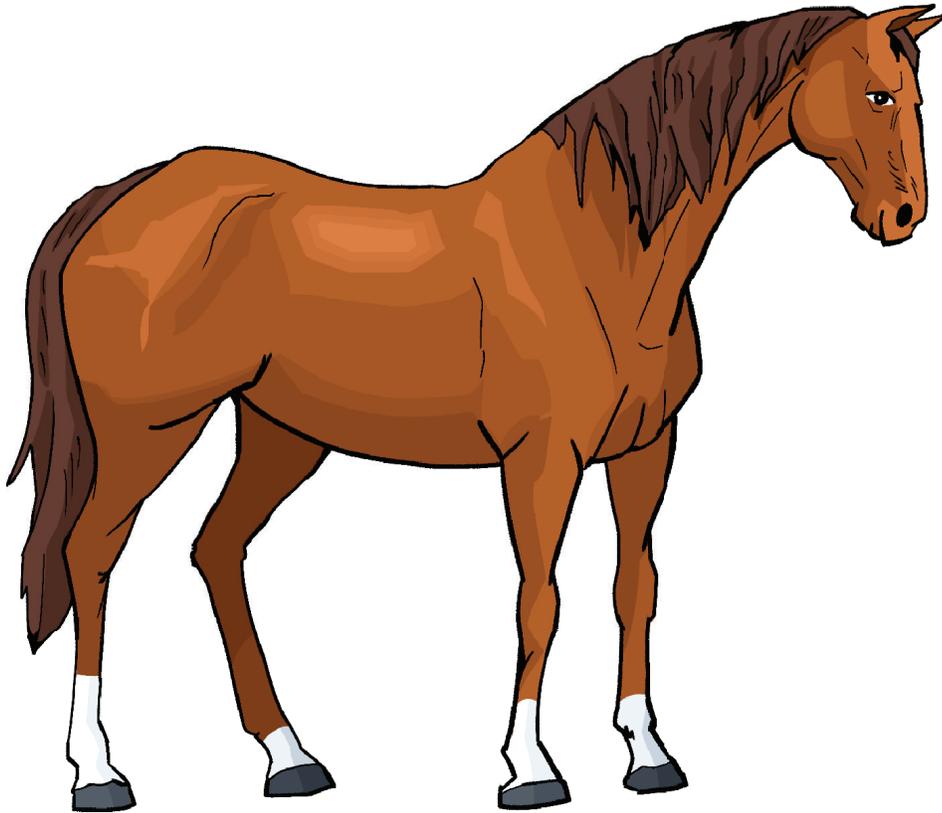
# Label a Horse's Points

## Physical Features

Use your books to label all the points of this horse. Draw lines from your labels to each physical characteristic. This will help you learn a horse's physical features so that you can do this from memory later on.



# Name That Horse Point



## Horse Characteristics

### Head Points:

Poll  
Muzzle  
Chin Groove  
Forehead  
Bridge of Nose  
Eye  
Upper Lip  
Lower Lip

### Neck/Shoulder Points:

Jugular Furrow  
Shoulder  
Throat Latch  
Crest  
Point of Shoulder

### Body Points:

Chest  
Withers  
Heart Girth  
Back  
Abdomen  
Loin  
Croup  
Arm

### Leg Points:

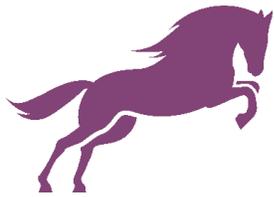
Hock  
Knee  
Heel  
Hoof  
Ergot  
Elbow  
Cannon  
Pastern  
Fetlock  
Coronet  
Gaskin

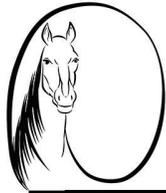
### Rear Parts:

Dock  
Point of Hip  
Stifle  
Flank  
Point of  
Buttock

## A Poster to Hang

Rip this page out of your horse notebook, and carefully cut off the frayed edge, and this note.  
Post it up on a wall and use it to practice pointing out each horse feature listed above.





# Time to Draw

Let's begin with a straightforward pose for a horse.  
Draw the horse from the "Standing, Side View" page in your drawing book.

# Timeline of the Horse in History



## How Horses Impacted Human Society through History

For many years of mankind's history, horses roamed free over the earth. When at last people learned to train and domesticate horses, the horse became a magnificent servant to help with domestic chores, a warhorse that could fight in battles bravely, traveler to take people from village to town to city, a workhorse to help plow and harvest in the fields, a messenger that could deliver mail and packages across continents, and even a racer to thrill audiences in races of speed and endurance!

Horses have played pivotal roles in human history for thousands of years. They've helped win important conflicts, deliver vital messages, and tame wild lands with plows and furrows. This year, you'll learn all about all different kinds of horses, and how these horses have helped change history. Whether pleasure horses or draft breeds, performing horses or warhorses, each has made our world a little different -- a little more like the world we know today.

As you learn about the role horses have played in history, you'll want to place timeline figures on a timeline to show what horses have done for humans. You'll find special timeline pages in a separate ebook file you've purchased, and you'll find colored timeline figures with them.

Paste the colored figures onto the timeline near the date on the timeline. **BE SURE** to pay close attention to whether the figure takes place in the years B.C. or A.D. All the B.C. dates can be found together, and the A.D. dates are together at the end.



## 👁 Cave Painting on a Rock 👁

Have you ever tried cave painting? Some of the world's ancient civilizations did, and we have discovered many of their "works of art" in caves around the world. The best thing about a cave wall as a canvas is that your art hangs around for a long time! Many cave paintings include drawings of horses.

Why not complete your own cave painting? You can use a flat rock, rather than finding a cave, and that way you can keep your painting in your room! Draw out your design below, then transfer it to a rock you've picked out for the purpose. Then, paint in the design with acrylic paints. It's your own ancient art piece!

