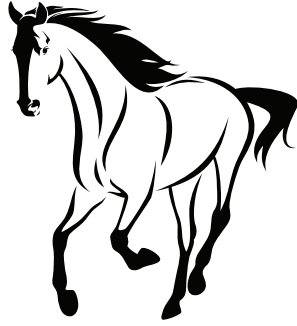# Horses

Horse Facts

• Horses have been domesticated and bred by humans for more than 4,000 years.

• There is only one species of domestic horse, but around 400 different breeds.

• One of the oldest breeds is the Arab. Its colors are black, bay, brown, chestnut and gray.

• Horses are able to stand while sleeping without falling down.

• The height of horses is measured at the highest point of the withers, where the neck meets the back. It is measured in hands.

• A hand is the length of an average adult's palm, or about 10 cm (4 inches).

• A horse usually sleeps about three hours a day.

• Horses usually live for around 20 to 25 years.

• The fastest speed by a horse is about 70 kph.

Do you know any more interesting facts about horses?

Research

Briefly explain the following stages of life for horses and whether they refer to male or female horses.

foal, yearling, colt, stallion, filly, mare

Put the following horse speeds or gaits in order from slowest to fastest.

cantor, gallop, trot, walk

Drawing

Horses can have a variety of coat colors and distinctive markings including chestnut, bay, black, palomino and pinto.

Draw a picture of a horse with your favorite coat color and markings.

Homophones

A homophone is a word pronounced the same as another, but with a different meaning or spelling.

Choose the word that best fits the sentence.

Did you hear my horse **neigh/nay**?

A group of horses is called a **herd/heard**.

My horse Trigger has brown **hare/hair.**

I bought a new **bridal/bridle** for my horse.

I **road/rode** my horse to school yesterday.

I am going to **bye/buy** a new saddle.

My horse loves to **galop/gallop**.

Yesterday my horse **through/threw** a shoe.

Number Crunchers

The height of a horse is measured in hands. A "hand" is about 10 cm.

If the average horse is about 14 hands, how many centimeters is that?

A horse named Nodram measured about 19 hands. How many centimeters is that?

Some of the smallest horses are just 4 hands high. How many centimeters is that?

Measure your own height in centimeters. How many hands is that?