

Thoroughbred Horses



Visit Funny Cide at the KHP Hall of Champions!

A long time ago, man **tamed** the horse. People used horses to farm and to ride. Today, people also race horses. The most popular breed for horse racing is the **Thoroughbred**. The Thoroughbred is the only horse that can compete in the Kentucky Derby.

* This educational packet is intended for third, fourth, and fifth graders. It may be complete in small groups or individually.

Name: _____ Date: _____



The Life Cycle of a Thoroughbred Racehorse



1

Racehorses are born on farms. Baby horses are called **foals**. Boy horses are called **colts**, girl horses are called **fillies**.

Mother horses are called **Mares**.
Foals live with their mothers.
Father horses are called **Stallions**.

2



3

When foals are about six months old they are **weaned**, meaning separated from their mothers. Weanlings live in a herd made of up horses their age.



When horses turn one year old, they are called yearlings.

4



5

Horses start racing at two years old.



Some may become riding horses, pleasure horses, or be used for breeding. Then they will retire on farms after hopefully long and successful careers.

6



What about horses?



Where do horses live?

Horses live in barns and outside.

In a barn, a horse lives in a **stall**.

Outside, a horse lives in a **pasture**.



White Prince
A Rare White Thoroughbred



What do horses eat?

Horses eat a lot during the day. From the time they are born, until they are about 5 months old, foals need to drink their mother's milk. Around this time, horses begin to eat only grass, **hay**, and grain feed.



Jockey
ID#: 996.03.02

What do horses need at the racetrack?

A racehorse has a rider called a **jockey**.

The jockey's uniform is a silk jersey with his horse's owner's colors.

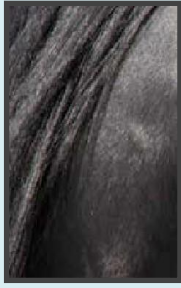


Secretariat's Racing Silks
ID#: L2011.004.015

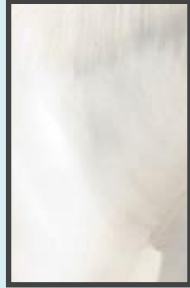
*If you are interested in learning about more breeds, check out the Breeds of the World educational packet on imh.org!



Thoroughbred Colors



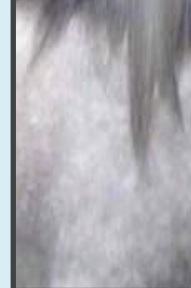
Black



White



Chestnut



Grey



Bay

Thoroughbred horses have coats in five colors: black, white, chestnut, gray, and bay. Bay horses have brownish red bodies with black points, manes, and tails. Thoroughbreds may also have white markings on their faces and legs.



Did you know?
White thoroughbreds are very rare. We used to house White Prince, a white Thoroughbred.



Markings
The horse on the left has a stripe, and the horse on the right has a star. Stripes and stars are just two types of face markings.

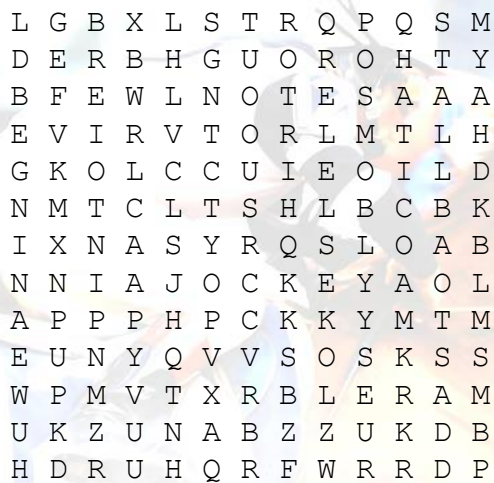


Vocabulary

1. **Tame**- to change from the wild state
2. **Thoroughbred**- a light breed of horses that is very good at racing, the only breed that races in the Kentucky Derby
3. **Mare**- a mother horse
4. **Stallion**- a father horse
5. **Weaning**- a stage in a horses life when he no longer needs his mother's milk and is separated from his mother; a horse that has been weaned is called a weanling
6. **Colt**- a young boy horse up to the age of four
7. **Filly**- a young girl horse up to the age of four
8. **Stall**- a room in a barn where an animal lives
9. **Pasture**- a fenced in field where animals live
10. **Hay**- dried grasses for horses to eat
11. **Jockey**- a racehorse rider

Word Search

Directions: Find all the vocabulary words!



L G B X L S T R Q P Q S M
D E R B H G U O R O H T Y
B F E W L N O T E S A A A
E V I R V T O R L M T L H
G K O L C C U I E O I L D
N M T C L T S H L B C B K
I X N A S Y R Q S L O A B
N N I A J O C K E Y A O L
A P P P H P C K K Y M T M
E U N Y Q V V S O S K S S
W P M V T X R B L E R A M
U K Z U N A B Z Z U K D B
H D R U H Q R F W R R D P

Word Search created by
www.puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com



Color Your Horse!

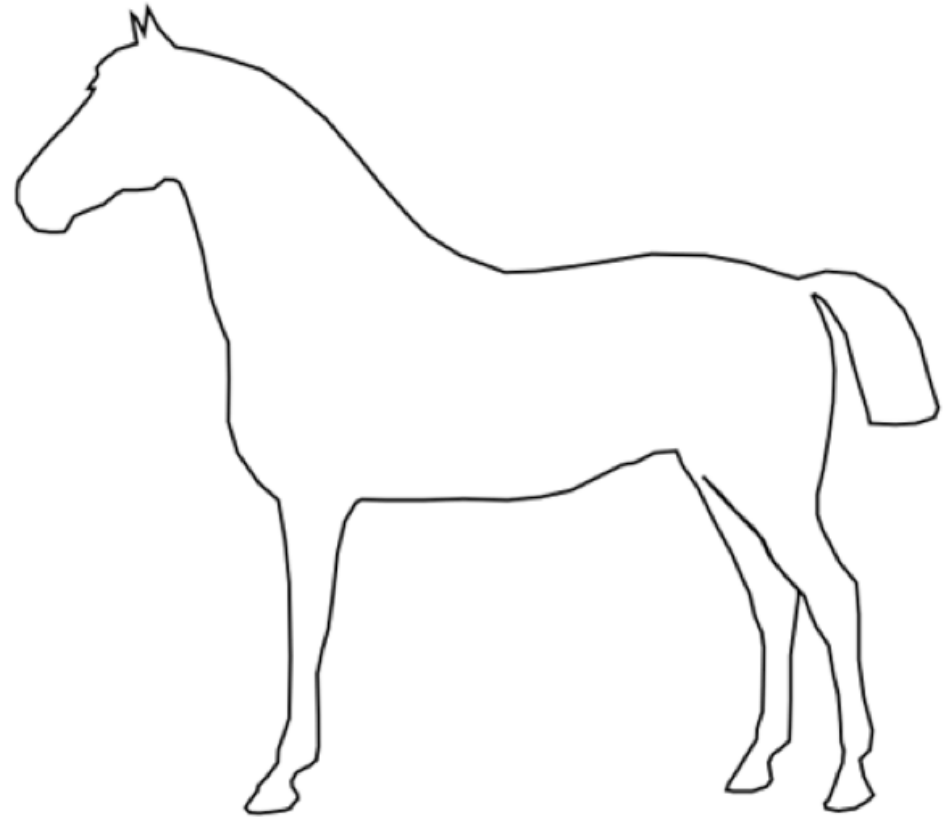
If you had a horse, what would you name it? Would it live on a farm or be a racehorse? Is it a colt or a filly, a mare or a stallion? Which Thoroughbred color would it be? Show food if your horse is resting. If he is a racehorse draw his jockey's silk jersey and helmet. What is his or her favorite race number?

1. Write a few sentences about your horse in the box below.
2. Color your horse and draw his home. Use the next page.



My Horse





My Horse _____

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

