

Horse Fan Badge Worksheet

Complete this worksheet and bring it with you to your clinic.

Name a stable: _____
How much do lessons cost? _____ Western or English? _____
Do you have to own your own horse to take lessons? _____
Are there indoor or outdoor arenas? Trails? _____

Name at least five safety rules for working around horses:

What are three horse careers you might want to learn more about?

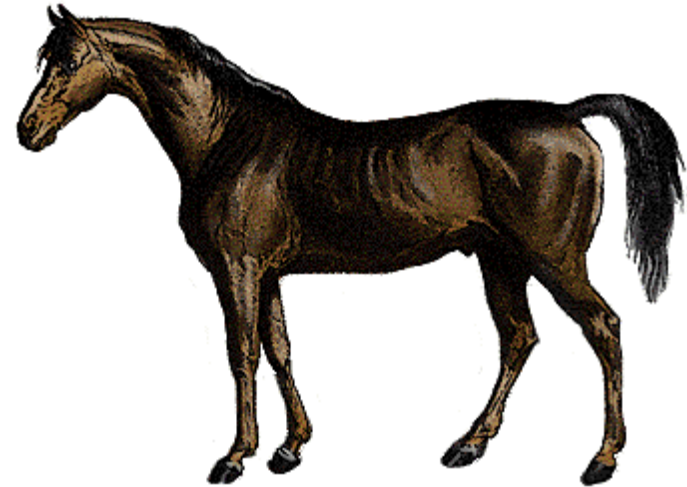
What would you wear if you were going to ride in a horse show?

Name three famous horses and why they are famous:

Where can you go to attend shows in your area?

Name: _____

Horse Fan Badge Activity Booklet



Girl Scouts®

**GIRL SCOUTS OF
GREATER ATLANTA, INC.**

www.gsgatl.org

Welcome!

Dear Horse Fan Participant,

We are glad that you will be joining us to participate in our Horse Fan program. We hope this booklet will help you be better prepared when you attend the Horse Fan clinic.

The first part of the booklet explains the Horse Fan Badge. There are two parts to the badge: activities you will complete on your own or at a troop meeting, and activities that you will complete at camp. You are responsible for completing the first part of requirement No. 4 along with two additional requirements from the badge book. The worksheet to complete your badge requirements on is located in the back of your booklet. You may tear that page off and bring it with you to camp. You will complete the rest of the badge activities at camp.

The remaining part of the booklet previews what you will learn while earning your badge. Please look over the parts of the tack, the parts of the horse, and the barn safety rules before you come to the clinic. Previewing this material will make it easier for you to learn and understand these things once you come to the barn.

Additional sections of this booklet are included as an extra learning opportunity for you. You will find information on topics such as "Horse Talk," "Famous Horses" and interesting facts about horses that most people don't know.

We hope you enjoy your clinic! See you soon!
Happy Trails!



Kao Fisher
Equestrian Director
Camp Misty Mountain

Rebekah McAuley
Equestrian Director
Camp Meriwether

Equestrian Director
Camp Pine Acres

Coloring Page



Horse Fan Badge Activities

Activities you must complete before the clinic:

You must complete the first part of requirement No. 4 and at least two additional requirements (other than those covered below) from the badge book in order to receive your Horse Fan Badge.

2. Basic Horse Care: Visit a stable. Find out from the owner/manager what is involved in the care of a horse. Find out how much and what kind of food a horse needs daily, acceptable treats for horses, everyday care for a stable, and how often a horse needs to be shod and why.

3. Proper Attire: Show the correct and safe clothing to wear while riding in horse shows, western trail rides, and your group's equestrian activities. Focus on the safety features to look for in footwear, pants, jackets, and riding helmets you wear while riding and working around horses.

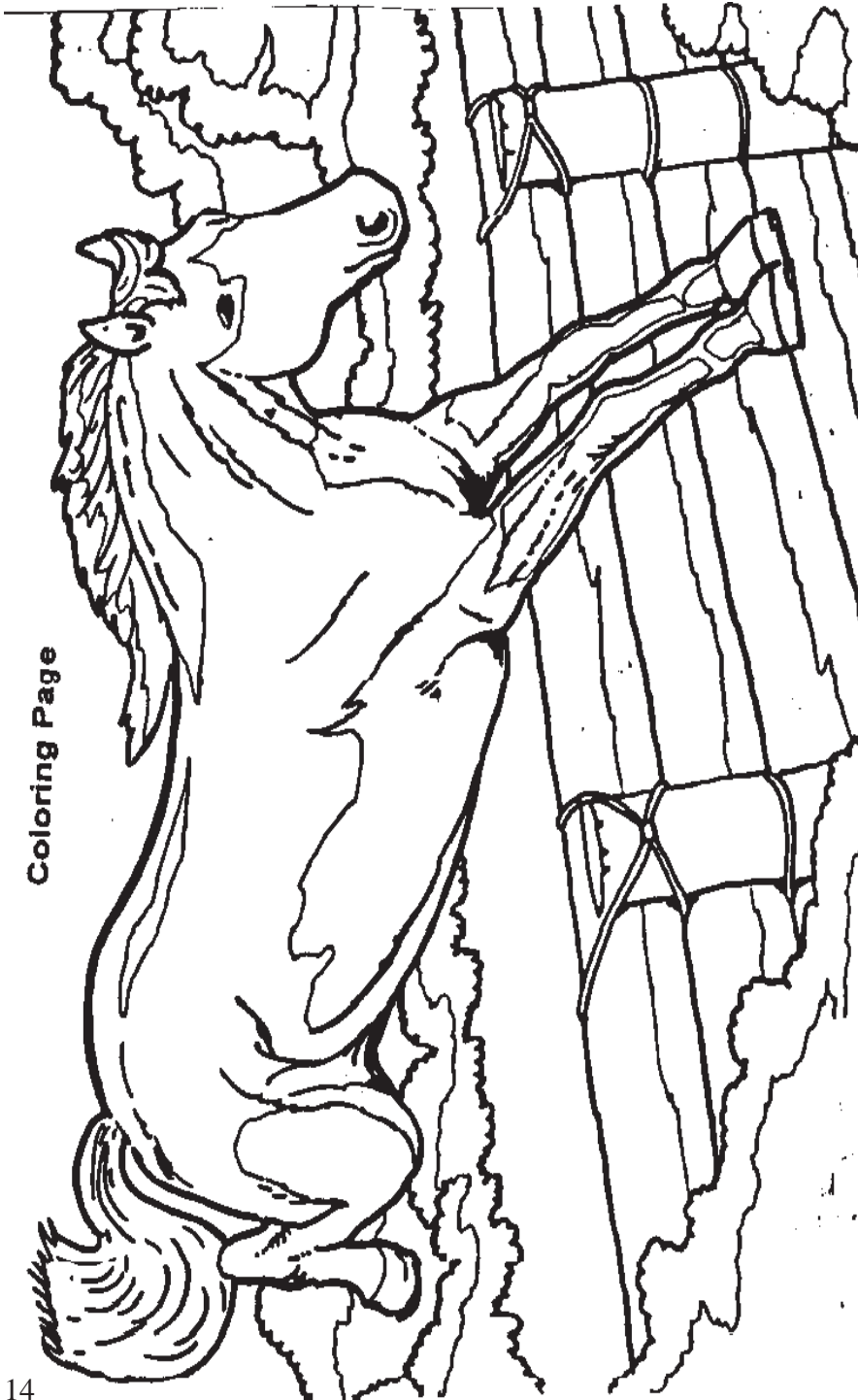
4. Parts of the Horse: At the clinic, you will learn to point out and name the principal parts of the horse.

6. Careers with Horses: Explore at least three different career opportunities available in the horse industry.

7. Tacking the Horse: Learn the parts of the saddle and bridle. Find out how each part contributes to the comfort of both the horse and rider. Learn how to care for tack and assist with the bridling or saddling of the horse.

Additionally, you will become familiar with **important safety rules** for working around horses. You will also discover the purpose of each grooming tool and use them to **groom a horse**. You will then **take a riding lesson**. Learn how to approach and lead a horse, mount and dismount, ride at the walk, halt, and circle.

Coloring Page



Important Barn Safety Rules



1. No running is permitted in the barn area.
Reason: Sudden movements frighten horses.

2. Horses should never be hand fed.
Reason: Fingers may be mistaken for carrots and bitten.

3. Always listen for directions from your instructor and be alert at all times when working around horses.
Reason: Horses are large and powerful, but get scared easily and move quickly. Your instructor is there to protect you from danger.

4. Wear appropriate clothing when riding and working around horses.

This includes: long pants, boots or the shoes with a 1/2 to 1 inch heel, and ASTM-SEI certified riding helmet (no bike helmets).
Reason: Proper clothing will keep you safe and comfortable.

5. Loud voices are not allowed.

Reason: Unexpected sounds or noises, especially screams, can frighten horses.

6. Praise often.

Reason: Horses appreciate knowing when they've done a good job and that you like them. Praise enforces a horse's good training.

7. Never stand directly in front of or behind a horse.

Reason: These are the horse's two "blind spots." A frightened horse may kick or run over you.

8. Never wrap or hook anything attached to the horse around your hand or to your person in any way.

Reason: The first choice of a frightened horse is to run. If a horse runs away, you do not want to be dragged along with him.

9. Never enter the stables or barn area without an instructor present.

Reason: The only predictable thing about horses is that they are unpredictable.

Finding Out More About Horses

You will find a wealth of information all about horses on the Web or at your local library. On the Web, just search on "horses" and you will see numerous sites to peruse. Here are some specific Web sites and key words to search on:

Web sites:

HorseCity.com
American Paint Horse Association
American Quarter Horse Association

Famous Horses:

Trigger - owned by Roy Rogers
Traveller - owned by General Robert E. Lee
Figure - owned by Justin Morgan
Man O'War - a famous race horse
Big Ben and Gem Twist
The Darley Arabian, Byerly Turk and Godolphin Barb

Recommended Reading:

The Black Stallion by Walter Farley
Fabulous by Dorothy Potter Benedict
Stallion of the Sands by Helen Griffiths
The Ghost Pony by Lynn Hall
All for a Horse by Marilyn Anderson
Where's the Horse for Me? by Lurlene McDaniel
Misty of Chincoteague by Marguerite Henry
Stormy, Misty's Foal by Marguerite Henry
Pagan the Black by Dorothy Potter Benedict

Nonfiction:

CHA Horsemanship Manuals
US Pony Club Horsemanship Manuals

Magazines:

Horse Illustrated
Young Rider
Practical Horsemanship
Horse & Rider
Equus

To Find Equestrian Events near You:

Search for these two Web sites

Georgia Market Bulletin
Stablemates



Horseman's Talk

Mare: a female horse 4 years or older

Gelding: a male horse that has been altered to make him unable to produce and more manageable

Stallion: a male horse that has the capability to reproduce

Foal: a baby horse of either sex

Suckling: a baby horse of either sex that is still nursing from his mother

Weanling: a baby horse of either sex that has been weaned from his mother

Yearling: a horse of either sex that is one year old

Filly: a female horse less than 4 years old

Colt: a male horse less than 4 years old

Dam: refers to a horse's mother

Sire: refers to a horse's father

Mule: a cross between a horse and a donkey, unable to reproduce

Near side: refers to the horse's left side

Far side: refers to the horse's right, or off, side

Walk, trot, canter, gallop: the gaits of the horse, from slowest to fastest

Tack: refers to all the equipment used on the horse



Fashion and Function

Recreational Riding: Riding like all sports, requires proper attire. Long pants protect your legs from sunburn and saddle sores. Boots or hard-soled shoes with a 1 to 1/2 inch heel keep your feet from sliding through the stirrup. Boots also offer more protection than an athletic shoe, should you accidentally get stepped on by a horse. Shirts should be tucked in to prevent catching on the saddle. Some people like to wear long sleeve shirts to protect from the sun and any brush encountered on the trail. Short sleeves are also OK, however tank tops with loose arm openings are not recommended because they are apt to catch on the saddle. Your riding helmet will protect your head in case of a fall by either you or your horse. Always make sure your helmet is ASTM-SEI certified for horseback riding and fits your head securely and comfortably.

Formal Riding: When riding in a show, you must wear the appropriate attire for your event. **English shows** require that you wear traditional **tall boots**, which are black boots that fit your calf snugly up to your knee. These boots offer extra grip in the saddle. You will also wear tight pants called **breeches** which are usually beige, tan or light gray (or white for Dressage riding). Your shirt will be a white or other light colored **blouse with a choker collar** sporting a decorative **stock pin** or your embroidered initials. A **hunt coat** (blazer) is worn over your blouse and is usually black, navy blue, dark gray or green. Finally, all your hair must be secured neatly in a hair net under your **black velvet helmet**. To be in the ribbons at an English show, conservative, neat attire is a must.

Western shows allow you more opportunity to play with color and style, as bright colors, glitter and glam currently rule the show pen. You will wear **show pants** of any color under show **chaps** of the same color. Chaps give you extra grip in the saddle. Your boots will be **crepe soles** with **spurs** optional, but traditional. A belt with a rather large, **silver show buckle** really sets your outfit off. The current trend on top is a tight, long sleeve shirt called a **slinky**, topped with a vest. **Vests** are usually shiny with gold or silver thread, or decorated with sequins and jewels. Adults usually stick with more conservative colors as their dominant scheme, such as rusts, greens, beiges and black; while youth can experiment with any color including lime, yellow, purple, magenta, orange and pink. Everyone, however, must also take into consideration the color of their horse and choose only colors that flatter both horse and rider. You will want to wear a traditional **cowboy hat** to match, although helmets are not penalized and still recommended for youth.

Fun Facts About Horses

Did you know that each horse has a unique “fingerprint” just like you do?

The part of the horse’s leg known as the chestnut is unique to every horse. Chestnuts can be used for identification records just as our fingerprints can.

Why do we always mount horses from the left side?

The tradition of mounting from the left side dates back to the Dark Ages when knights carried swords on horseback. Most of the knights carried their swords on their left side because they were right handed, making it impossible to mount from the right. This was also true for cavalry soldiers.

Do you know that a horse can eat himself to death?

Horses are made to graze almost constantly; therefore, their need for food is constant. If a horse is given an unlimited supply of grain, he will most likely eat until his stomach can hold no more and explodes. Horses do not have the capability of throwing up.

How do we measure a horse’s height?

Horses are measured in what we call hands. A hand equals 4 inches. So if a horse is 14 hands tall, he is actually 56 inches tall. The average human hand is 4 inches across. So by using your hands you can measure a horse without using a measuring stick.

What is a pony?

Ponies are a breed of equine that when full grown measure 14.2 hands or smaller. There are many different pony breeds. Ponies are not baby horses.

Did you know that race horses all have the same birthday?

Thoroughbred race horses are registered with the Jockey Club, which is a breed registry. Their official birthday is Jan. 1 of the next year after their birthday, regardless of their actual birthdate. Age becomes important for entering certain races.

How much do horses weigh?

The average riding horse weighs between 800 and 1,500 pounds.

Basic Care of Horses

Daily Feeding: Horses need daily feeding of both roughages and concentrates. Roughages consist of hay or grass and concentrates consist of grain such as oats or corn. Horses also need a continuous fresh supply of water as well as salt and minerals, usually fed in the form of a salt brick. Horses who are not kept on pasture where they have access to grass, should be fed two to three times daily.

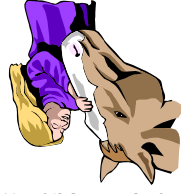
Daily Grooming: Grooming not only makes the horse look good, but also makes him feel good. Grooming stimulates circulation and helps distribute oils in his skin throughout his coat to give a healthy shine. Grooming is necessary before riding. Dirt underneath the saddle or bridle irritates the horse’s skin and can cause a sore which would make him unable to be ridden.

Hoof Care: Horses need their hooves picked out daily to remove any mud, rocks or debris. Mud and rocks left in their hooves can bruise their hooves and cause infection, which makes them unable to be ridden. Horses’ hooves need to be trimmed every six-eight weeks, as they continually grow, much like your fingernail does. Horses wearing shoes also need their hooves trimmed every six-eight weeks, at which time their shoes will be replaced.

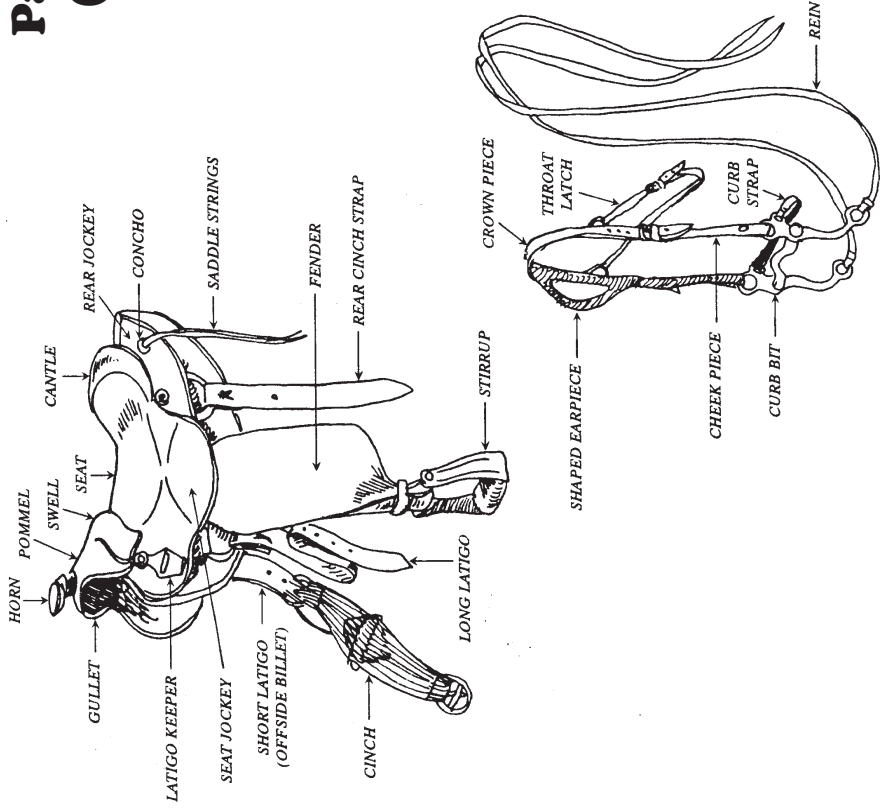
Worming: Horses can easily be infected with a variety of different parasites. Administering an oral paste to the horse every two to three months keeps him free of infestation. Horses who are infested with worms are unsightly, unhealthy, and unable to perform to their full potential.

Vaccinations: Just like people, horses need specific shots to protect them from diseases. Common shots horses receive are for tetanus, rabies, rhinopneumonitis, equine encephalomyelitis and influenza. Shots are usually given one or two times a year, usually in the spring and the fall.

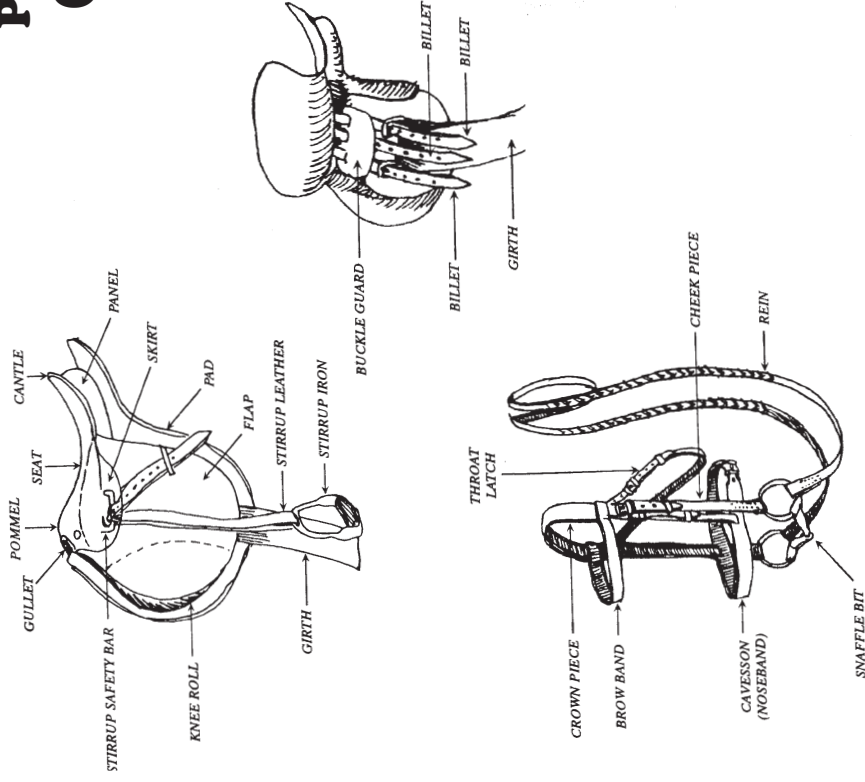
Dental Care: Horses’ teeth continue to grow and change throughout their lifetime. If not filed down, they grow into points which cause difficulty in upper and lower jaw alignment. The process of rasping these sharp points is called floating. If not done, horses may experience difficulty in eating or protest to the bit in their mouth while being ridden.



Parts of Western Tack (Saddle and Bridle)



Parts of English Tack (Saddle and Bridle)



Careers in the Horse Industry

Horses and horseback riding can provide you a lifetime of recreation, relaxation and good exercise. However, you may also choose to incorporate your love of horses into a career. Following is a brief overview of some careers in the horse industry. You can either look up information about these careers on your own or ask us for more information when you come to your clinic.

Showing

- Track official
- Rider
- Groom
- Judge
- Show secretary
- Ring steward
- Trainer

Care

- Equine vet
- Farrier
- Equine dentist
- Equine chiropractor
- Equine acupuncturist
- Equine massage therapist
- Barn attendant/stall cleaner

Instructor

- Lessons
- Trail rides
- College professor
- Clinic instructor

Breed Registries

- Office worker
- Board member
- Public relations staff
- Registrar

Equine Publications Writer

- Ad designer
- Reporter/writer
- Editor
- Web site contributor/manager

Organizations

- 4-H
- Girl Scouts
- CHA
- U.S. Pony Club
- American Camping Association

Other

- Seller of young horses
- Cross-country horse hauler
- Carriage driver

Parts of the Horse

