



New Horizons EAL

Charlie Book



Information



Colours

Horses come in many different colours. In this book we are going to look at some of the simple colours.



Grey

Grey horses come in a variety of shades, from very dark to what most of us would think of as white. However, in the horse world a white horse is called grey rather than white. This is due to their genes.

There are some horses that really are white but they are very rare. At New Horizons, we have one true grey horse (pictured) and two others who are often referred to as grey. Can you guess who?



Chestnut

Chestnut horses have an orange/ginger coat that is a solid colour all over their body, mane and tail.

Sometimes they can have a paler mane and tail which is called flaxen. Most chestnut horses are bright

ginger coloured although some can be darker. These are called liver chestnuts. We don't have any chestnut horses at New Horizons but you see quite a few chestnut New Forest Ponies.



Black

Black is a colour of horse where the entire coat is black. It is a relatively uncommon coat colour and people sometimes mistake dark bay horses for black horses. We don't have any black horses at New Horizons but we do have a dark bay who is sometimes mistaken for black. Can you think who that might be?



Bay

The easiest way to spot a bay horse is that they have a brown or chestnut body colour with a black mane and tail. Other important things to identify are what we call the 'black points'.

This means that a bay horse will also have a black muzzle, black around his eyes, black tips to his ears and on his legs. Even if they have white markings you will be able to see the black points. We have two bay ponies and one dark bay pony at New Horizons, any idea who?



Markings

There are many different markings on horses. In this section we will look at four of them.



Blaze

A blaze is a wide strip of white that runs down the horse's face, usually from his forehead to his nose. It is quite easy to mix up a blaze with a stripe, which a blaze is wider than, or a white face, which a blaze is narrower than. Can you think of any of the horses at New Horizons who might have a blaze?

Star

A star is a white marking found on a horse's forehead. Sometimes they are small, but they can also be quite large. They aren't always in the centre of the forehead, they can be a bit off to the side. Do any of the horses at New Horizons have a star?



Socks and Stockings



Socks and Stockings are white markings on horses' legs. Socks are short and don't go much above the pastern whilst stockings are long and finish well above the knee or hock. We have a few horses at New

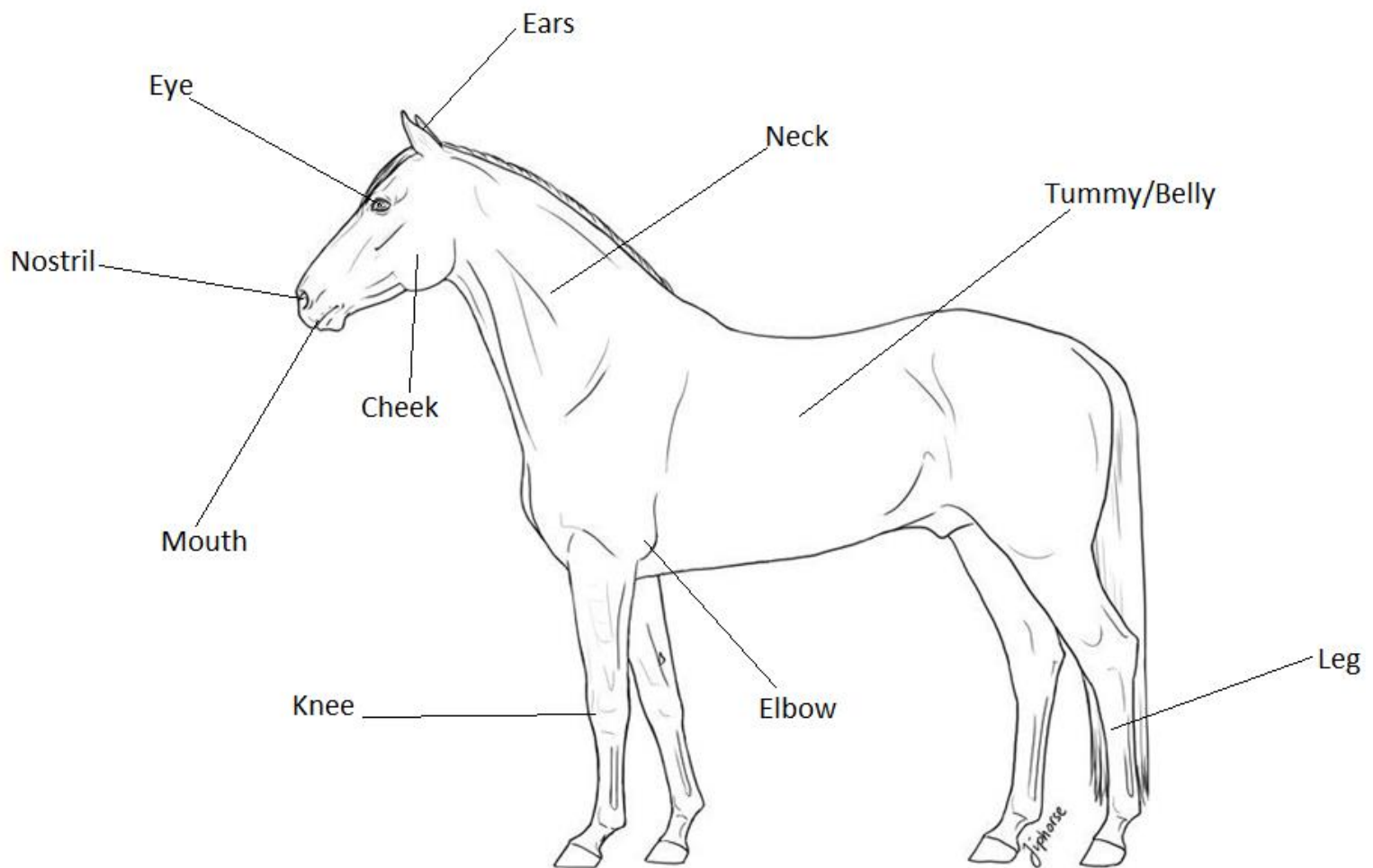
Horizons with socks or stockings. Who do you think they are?





Parts of the Horse

There are lots of the parts of the horse that have very different names from parts of humans but there are some that are the same or very similar.



Can you think of any others?



Breeds of Horse 1 Activity 1

There are hundreds of different breeds in the world. Here we are going to start looking at breeds of horses and ponies from the United Kingdom.

Welsh Mountain Pony



There are four different types of Welsh Pony known commonly as Section A, Section B, Section C and Section D. We are going to focus on the Section A, commonly known as the Welsh Mountain Pony.

The Welsh Mountain Pony is the smallest of the Welsh ponies and they may not exceed 12 hand high. They are more refined than Welsh Section Cs and Ds. They have large eyes and a small head, often with a 'dished' face. Their tail is high set and their leg confirmation is refined whilst retaining good bone.



The Welsh Mountain Pony may be any solid colour. Black, grey, chestnut and bay are most common but duns (buckskin) and palomino are very popular. They cannot be piebald, skewbald or spotted.



Shetland Pony



Shetland ponies are the smallest of the native British ponies. They are hardy and strong, in part because the breed developed in the hard conditions of the Shetland Isles in North Scotland.

They have small heads, sometimes with dished faces, widely spaced eyes and small, alert ears. Traditionally they have a short, muscular neck, a compact, stocky body and strong legs. They are known for growing thick manes and tails, and dense double winter coats to withstand the cold, snowy weather.



Shetlands can be almost any colour, including skewbald and piebald, but they cannot be registered if they are spotted (Appaloosa) or champagne although both of these colours are common in Shetland crossbreeds.



Shetlands are generally gentle, good-tempered and intelligent. They can be very cheeky and are very headstrong. For their size, Shetlands are the strongest of all horse and pony breeds.

Do we have any Shetland Ponies at New Horizons?



New Forest Pony



New Forest Ponies are a breed of pony native to the New Forest on the South Coast of England (and where New Horizons is based!). They are usually not smaller than 12 hands high but are not allowed to be 14.2 $\frac{1}{4}$ hands high. If they are taller than that they cannot be registered.

They should be 'of riding type', workmanlike and strong in confirmation with a sloping shoulder and powerful hindquarters. They make excellent children's ponies and the larger ones are capable of carrying adults. They are very good 'all round' ponies and are known to excel in various disciplines.



Herds of semi-feral ponies roam the New Forest all year round. They are 'rounded up' in the Autumn so that the commoners who own them can check them over and bring in any ponies that they want to.



New Forest Ponies are most commonly bay, chestnut or grey. Only mares and geldings can be registered as palomino. Piebald, skebald and blue-eyed cream colours are now allowed, neither are blue eyes. They are allowed white markings on the head and lower leg, below the point of the hock on the hind leg and below the knee on the foreleg.

Do we have any New Forest Ponies at New Horizons?



Thoroughbred Horse

Thoroughbred horses range from 15.2 to 17 hands high. They are most often bay, dark bay, brown, chestnut, black or grey. They may have white markings on their face and legs but skewbald, piebald or Appaloosa markings are now allowed.



Thoroughbreds will have a well-chiseled head on a long neck with high withers and a short back. They are very lean with a strong hindquarters and long legs. They are known as one of the 'hot-blooded' breeds which means they are bred for agility and speed. This also tends to make them spirited and bold.

All Thoroughbred horses can be traced back to one of three stallions who were imported into England from the Middle East in the late 17th and early 18th centuries. Their names are still known - Byerley Turk, the Darley Arabian and the Godolphin Arabian.

Thoroughbred horses are mainly used for the sport of horse racing although they can be equally good at many other equine disciplines. Many people have heard of the famous racehorse Red Rum.





Shire Horse

Shire horses are the tallest breed of horse not only in the United Kingdom, but in the world. Stallions may be no smaller than 17 hands high and mares no less than 16 hands high but there is no maximum height. The largest horse recorded in history was a shire named Sampson. He was born in 1848 and stood at 21.2 hands high!



Shire horses also weigh a lot, averaging between 850 to 1100 kilograms which, at their top end, is over a ton!

Shire stallions may be black, bay, brown or grey. Mares and gelding may be black, bay, brown, grey, roan or chestnut. They can have white markings on the face and legs but they do not generally have white markings on their bodies.



Shire horses have long, heads with large eyes set on a slightly arched and long neck. They have a deep shoulder and a wide chest.



They have a short back and wide, strong hindquarters. They have feathering on their legs and their hair is fine, straight and silky.

Shires are known for their strength and have historically been used for agricultural work such as ploughing. They are also popular driving horses but are also good riding horses, although they are often too wide for smaller riders!



Grooming Kit

We use lots of different brushes in our grooming kits. In this book we are going to look at five of the most common ones.

Metal Curry Comb

There are three types of curry comb, but they are all quite different. The metal curry comb is the only one of the three that we don't use on the horse. This is because the sharp bristles could injure the horse. We use metal curry combs solely to clean other brushes in the grooming kit.



Hoof Pick



Hoof picks are used to clean out the bottom of the horses' hooves. You have to be careful when using one that the 'frog', the central V shape in the hoof, is sensitive and could hurt if you catch it.

Mane and Tail Comb



The mane and tail comb can come in a few different forms. Sometimes it has a hand and other times it does not. Sometimes it even looks a bit like a hairbrush! We use this comb to brush out the horses' mane and tail. We often use it with mane and tail conditioner to help loosen up the knots and tangles.



Dandy Brush



Dandy brushes usually have a wooden or plastic handle with long, firm bristles. Generally they do not have an elasticated strap which is a good way to tell them apart from a body brush. If you feel the bristles of the dandy brush and a body brush you will feel that the dandy brush bristles are much harder.



Dandy brushes are used to get the dust, dirt and grime off the horses' body and legs but they don't do well against thick, caked-on mud. The bristles are too hard to use on their faces.

Plastic Curry Comb



Like with metal curry combs, plastic curry combs can be used to clean other brushes in the grooming kit. As well as this, plastic curry combs are very useful for getting thick, caked-on mud off horses as the plastic bristles are the hardest you can safely use on a horse.



For this reason, you cannot use a plastic curry comb on a horse's face but you can use it anywhere else on their body or legs. You can also use a plastic curry comb to help brush out a tail, especially if it is very thick.