



Ag Mag

AGRICULTURAL GAZETTE FOR KIDS



EQUINE



e•quine

/ˈekwīn, ē,kwīn/

similar to a horse. This category of animals includes horses, ponies, donkeys and zebras.

What does equine mean?

Equine is the connection to horses or appearing

Alabama Equine

A survey showed the horse industry generates nearly \$2.08 billion annually in Alabama.

The horse industry contributes to 24,000 jobs in Alabama, representing \$706 million in labor income.

There are approximately 154,000 horses/ponies in the state.

There are approximately 32,000 mules/donkeys in the state.

Equine ranked as the 12th agricultural industry in the state.

There are approximately 8,800 horse/pony farms in the state.

There are approximately 3,963 mule/donkey farms in the state.



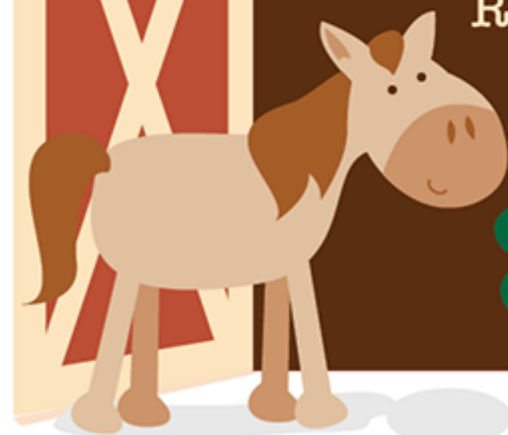
DID YOU KNOW?

Horses have 7 common blood types. Humans only have 4.



ALABAMA EQUINE ORGANIZATIONS

Alabama Equine Committee
Alabama Horse Council
Alabama High School Rodeo Association
Alabama Quarter Horse Association



ALABAMA

EQUINE ENTHUSIASTS

A DIVISION OF ALABAMA FARMERS FEDERATION



HORSE CARE

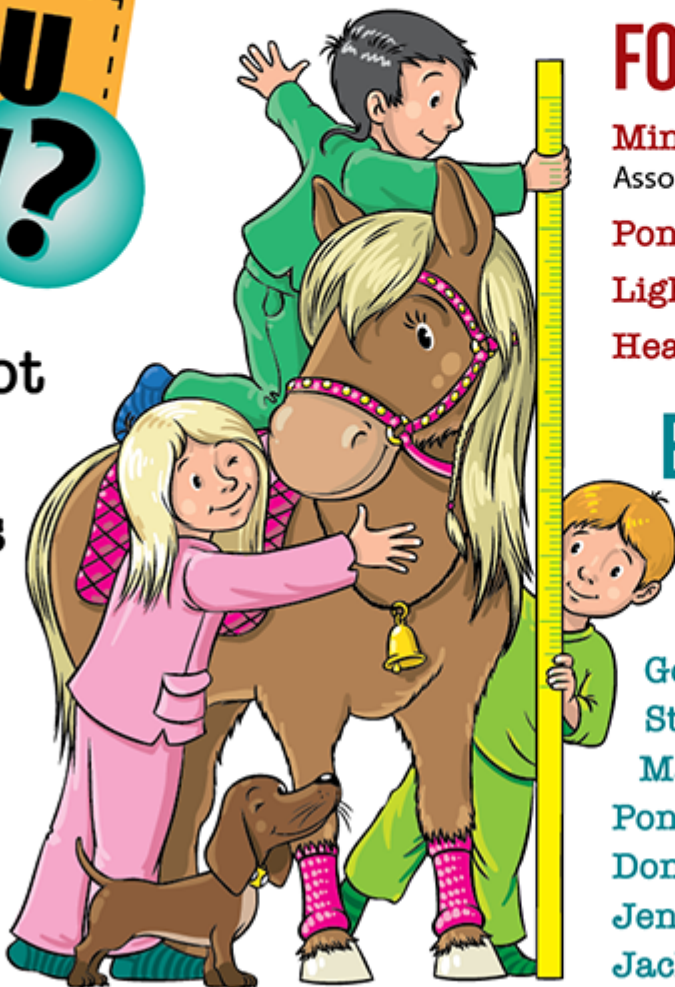
When thinking about getting a horse and the things it takes to care for them, some think it is as simple as putting them in a pasture. However, horses require lots of upkeep and maintenance so they can be ridden. Horses can live outdoors in a field, but some also live in a barn or stall when not being ridden. Having a place for your horse to go indoors allows shelter from bad weather or wild animals.

Also consider how to feed, groom and treat the animal. Horses eat lots of natural forages such as grass and hay. They also need supplemental feeds such as grain, oats, corn and other pelleted feeds. Grooming a horse is simple but needs to be done daily to ensure there is no buildup of dirt and mud. To groom your horse, you will need items such as a body brush, curry comb, hoof pick and a mane-and-tail comb to get out pesky knots. Horses have hooves that continually grow, similar to fingernails, which should be trimmed every 4-6 weeks. Treatment such as yearly vaccines and tests from a veterinarian are also necessary.



DID YOU KNOW?

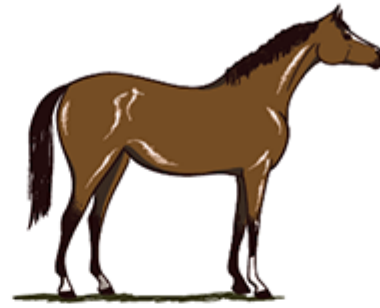
Horses are not measured in feet or inches like humans. They are measured in hands. One hand equals about 4 inches.



Horse Of A Different Color



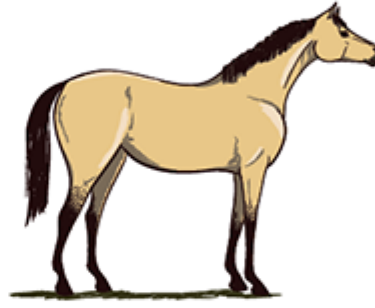
Appaloosa



Bay



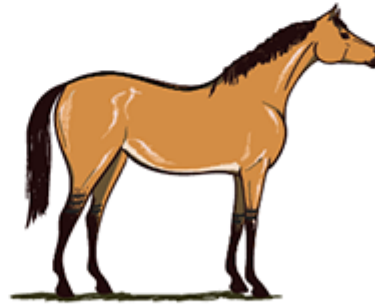
Black



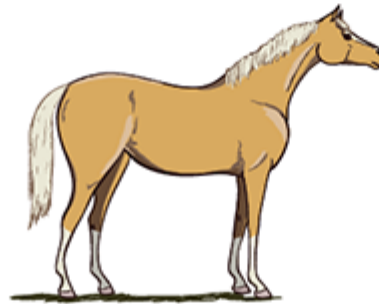
Buckskin



Chestnut



Dun



Palomino



Pinto



Roan



Seal Brown

Appaloosa — Come in many different colors and spotting; look as if they have on a spotted blanket

Bay — Brown body with black mane, tail and legs

Black — Fully black body; mane and tail with no brown hairs; tends to look blue at times

Buckskin — A tan or gold coat with black markings on the feet and a black mane and tail

Chestnut — Red coat that can be light or dark; usually has a light-colored mane and tail

Dun — Come in many shades; typically has a dorsal stripe down its back

Palomino — Shiny golden coat with a very light or white mane and tail

Pinto — Can be a variety of colors; tends to look as if they have had white paint spilled on them

Roan — Either red or a gray-blue base coat; over time, white hairs start coming through

Seal Brown — Nearly black but has some brown mixed in

FOUR CLASSIFICATIONS OF HORSES

Miniature — 34 inches or less (American Miniature Horse Association), 38 inches or less (American Miniature Horse Registry)

Ponies — 14.2 hands or less (57 inches tall) and less than 800 pounds

Lightweight — less than 1,300 pounds

Heavyweight — greater than 2,000 pounds

EQUINE TERMINOLOGY

Foal — a young equine up to a year old

Colt — male horse under the age of 4

Filly — female horse under the age of 4

Gelding — adult male horse

Stallion — adult male horse used for breeding

Mare — adult female horse

Pony — mature horse that measures less than 14.2 hands

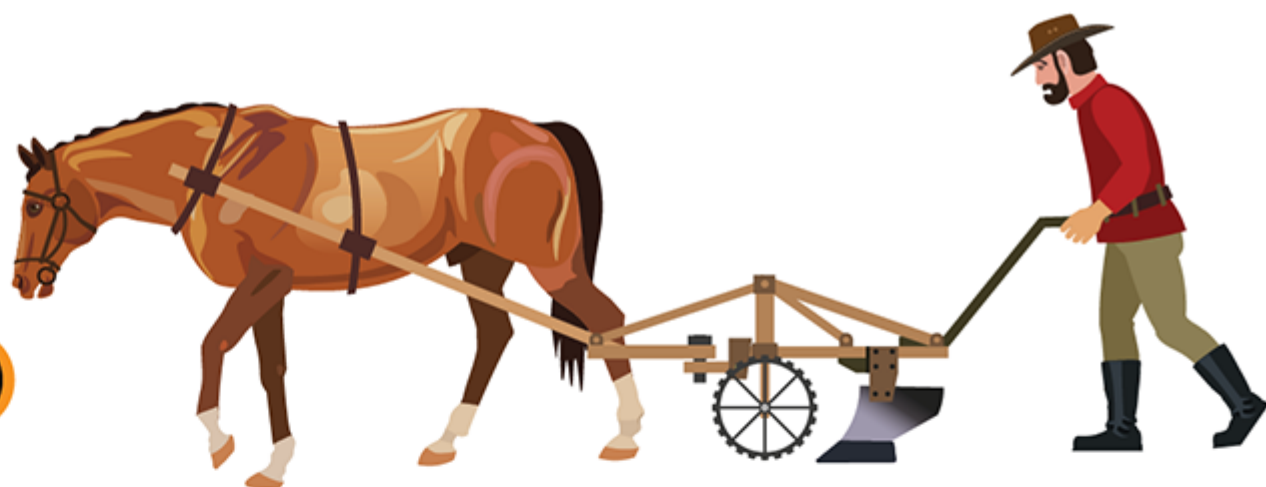
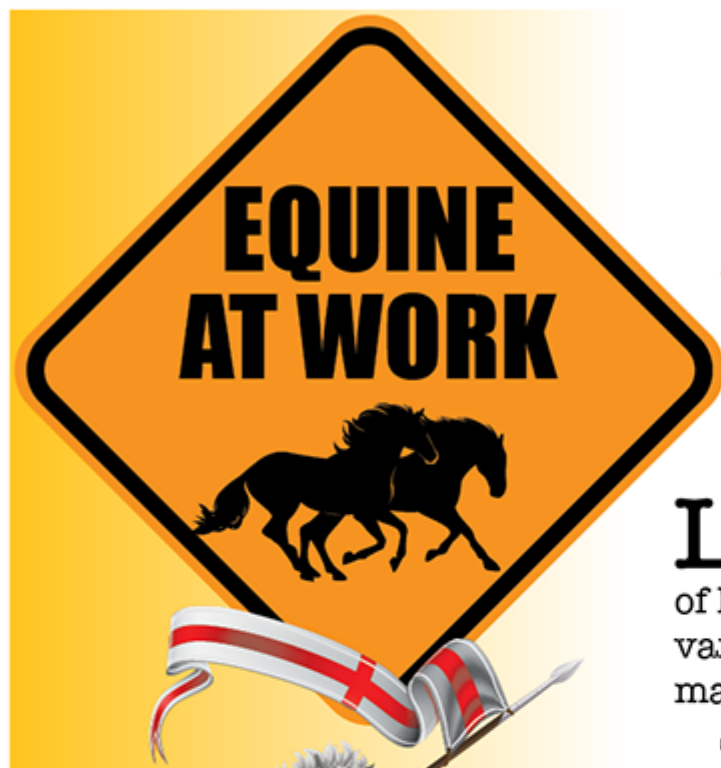
Donkey — part of the equine family; different from a horse

Jenny — a female donkey

Jack — a male donkey

Mule — offspring of a male donkey and a female horse





Let's take a look at the different types of equine and how they can be used, from trail riding to work animals. There are over 300 breeds of horses due to domestication and the desire to have a horse suited for various lifestyles. The equine industry is diverse, meaning some horses may look similar but have different purposes.

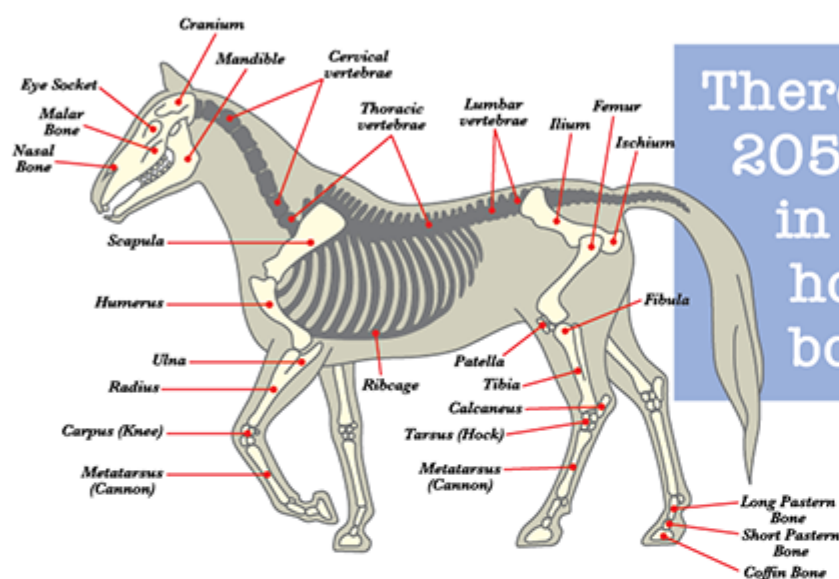
Throughout history, draft horses were needed to work in fields and help get labor done. War horses were in demand and were used to carry men into battle. Even today, our military and police forces have units that work on horseback. Horses are used on ranches to help do daily tasks such as work cattle.



Horses are also used for pleasure and for competition. Pleasure riding, also known as trail riding, is the No. 1 equine activity in the state of Alabama. Competition riding breaks down into two major categories, racehorses and rodeos. Racehorses are used in contests such as the Kentucky Derby, where multiple horses race for a prize. The rodeo circuit has many different events, including barrel racing, team roping, bronc riding and steer wrestling. All of these events include horses that work hard to do specific jobs and require lots of strength and agility.

Fun Facts

Horses enjoy sweet flavors and typically don't reject food that is sour or bitter



There are 205 bones in the horse's body

The average lifespan for a horse is 25 years

Horses can sleep standing up or laying down

The gestation period in a horse is 11 months

Ponies have thicker manes and tails than horses

Horses have a better sense of smell than sight



Horses can gallop or run up to 27 miles per hour

Horses have bigger eyes than any other mammal, allowing them to see nearly 360 degrees at a time

Nearly 80% of a horse's life is spent standing up

An average healthy horse produces about 12 liters of saliva daily while chewing their food — that's about 3 gallons

Horses are not able to breathe through their mouths

A Horse Is A Horse Of Course?

Use the word corral below to identify each equine variety pictured and write the name below the picture.



A:



B:



C:



D:



E:



F:

Word Corral:

Paint | Can be used on the farm or at the rodeo like the quarter horse. They are easily identifiable due to coloring, white with either black or brown spots. They stand about 14.8 hands tall.

Clydesdale | One of the taller horse breeds and is known for its white face markings and bell bottom feathering at its feet. Due to its large body, it is used as a draft, or work, horse.

Shetland pony | One of the most popular pony breeds, which stands about 11.6 hands tall. Coloring typically is brown, black, bay or chestnut.

Quarter horse | Known to be a cowboy's favorite horse with strong muscular bodies and quick speed. They average 14 to 16 hands tall and can be all colors, like light, bay and roan.

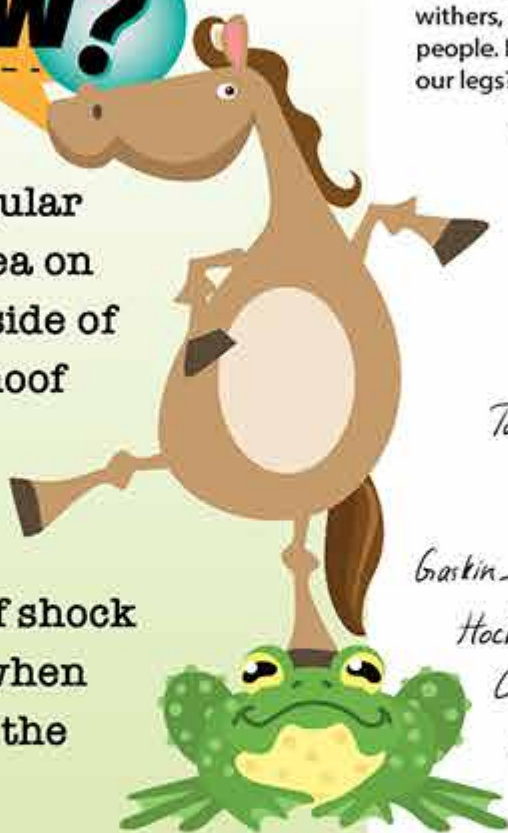
Donkey | Thought to be like a cousin to horses, they have a smaller build and stand around 11 hands tall. They have large, floppy ears and can be tan, brown, gray or black depending on genetics.

Zebra | This animal is associated with the zoo or the wild but is part of the equine family. It is known for its black and white striped fur.

Answers: A. Paint; B. Zebra; C. Quarter horse; D. Clydesdale; E. Shetland pony; F. Clydesdale

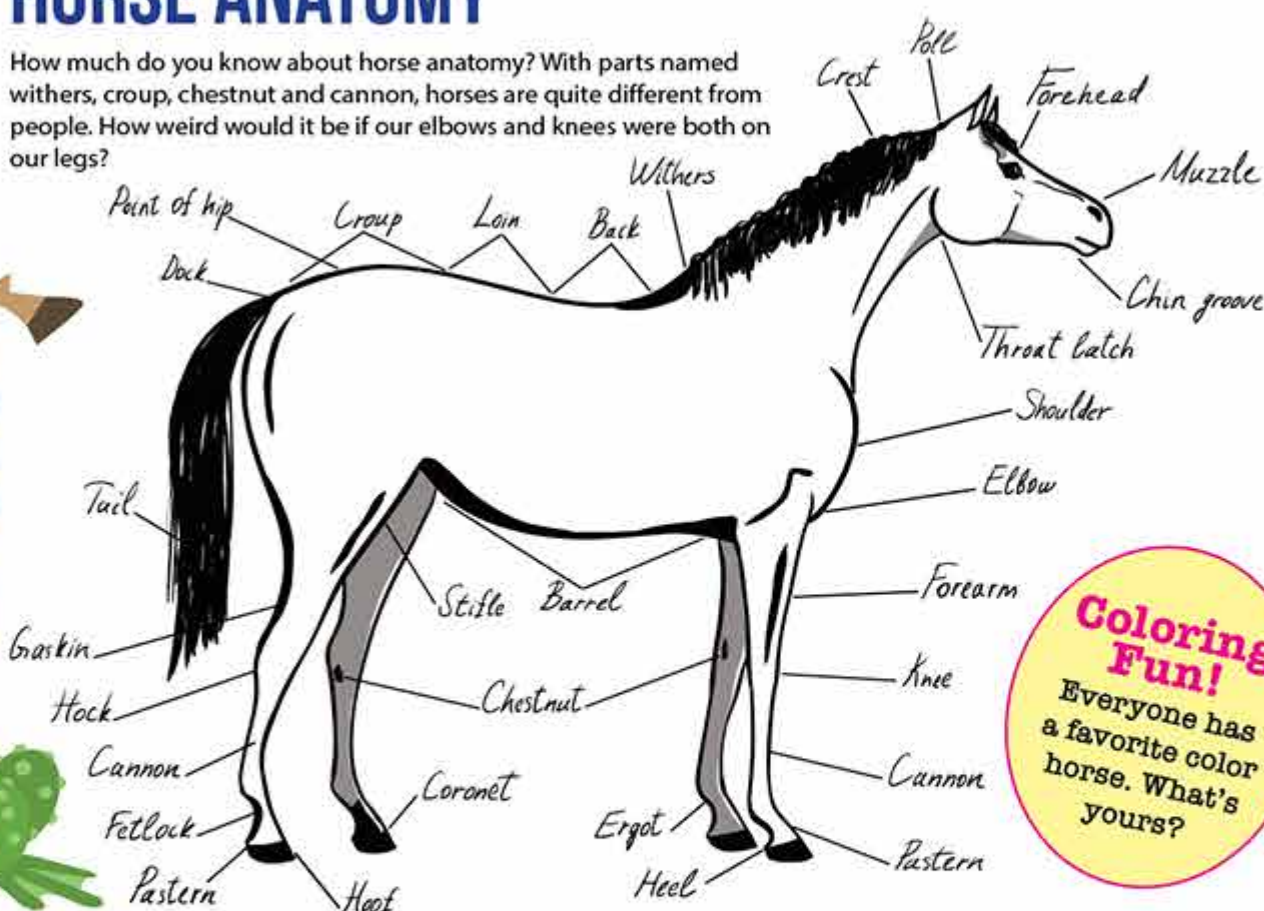
DID YOU KNOW?

The triangular shaped area on the underside of a horse's hoof is called a "frog" and serves as a sort of shock absorber when its feet hit the ground.



HORSE ANATOMY

How much do you know about horse anatomy? With parts named withers, croup, chestnut and cannon, horses are quite different from people. How weird would it be if our elbows and knees were both on our legs?



Coloring Fun!
Everyone has a favorite color horse. What's yours?

SOURCES:

Alabama Farmers Federation
U.S. Department of Agriculture
State Fair of Texas
Extension
American Quarter Horse Association
"The Horse" website



Alabama
Farmers
Agriculture
Foundation



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