



Horses

Curriculum Links:

- Science Living Things
- Geography Human Environments
- SPHE Myself and the Wider World

Lesson objective:

To introduce students to the world of racehorses including where they live, what they eat, what they wear and what they do.

Teacher guidelines

It is suggested that the teacher should ensure that their students are familiar with the vocabulary and concepts introduced in previous modules before starting this lesson.

Keywords and concepts introduced in previous modules:

hay hooves oats grass

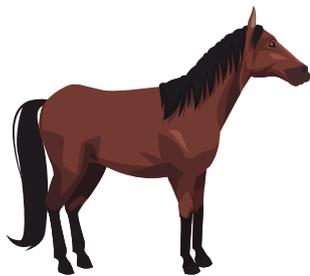
Horses have hooves; just like cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. Horses eat hay, grass and oats.

After revision of the above teachers should discuss the below in more detail.

Keywords and concepts for this lesson:

foal mare stallion horseshoes neigh famous

Meet the horses



A baby horse is called a foal.



A female horse is called a mare.



A male horse is called a stallion.

What sounds do they make?

Horses **neigh** when they are happy, excited or scared. People must be careful around horses that they don't know.

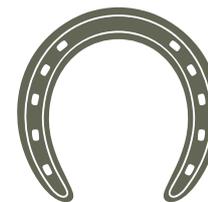
Where do horses live?

Horses can live indoors in stables or outdoors in fields.



Horseshoes

Horses wear shoes to protect their feet. The shoes are made out of a metal called iron. We must make four shoes for each of their hooves.



Look at the shape of the horseshoe. It looks like a half circle.

The Story of Arkle: the greatest racehorse of all time

Arkle, the horse, woke up early on the day of the big race.



He drank some water. "Glug glug". He ate some hay. "Munch munch".



He began to neigh. Arkle was excited!

His owner arrived with the horse-box. Arkle knew he was going to the racecourse.

When they arrived, Arkle could hear people cheering for him.



Arkle was famous for running very fast.

His rider, Joe, arrived to fit his saddle. Joe and Arkle were ready to race...

The gates opened and Arkle ran as fast as he could.



He galloped towards the first big jump.

Arkle jumped up, up and over. "Hurray!"

On the next jump, Arkle missed and hit his foot. "Oh no, he looks hurt".

Arkle kept on running as fast as he could. He came in second place.



Poor Arkle had a very sore hoof. He had to rest for a long time to make it all better.

After his injury, Arkle retired from racing. He spent the rest of his life as his owner's favourite pet.

Suggested Activities:

- Print and use the worksheets in the classroom or at home.
- Make up your own story about Arkle. This can be done as a group effort or as individuals.
- Read *Black Beauty* by Anna Sewell.
- Have a discussion about safety when riding a horse.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this lesson, students should have a better understanding of the horses' family and a timeline of a regular day.

Additional resources:

- www.agriaware.ie
- www.goracing.ie
- www.equip.ie



Horses

1 Can you draw a horse stable?

Bonus question:
How many
bones do horses
have in their
bodies?

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