From Foal to Race

Teacher Guidebook
2024

Agri Aware
EDUCATE • ADVOCATE • ENGAGE

&

equuip

H FUNDED BY HORSE RACING IRELAND

From Foal to Race Teacher Guidebook

Welcome to **From Foal to Race**, an initiative from Agri Aware and Equuip.

Before the programme starts, we have put together this **teacher guidebook** to better explain the role of the student and teacher over the duration of the programme. The programme e-book is available to download from our website.

This TY programme has been purposefully structured to bring **both student and teacher on a journey** of what it takes to bring a horse **From Foal to Race**. It is important to note here that **no prior knowledge of the industry** is required before introducing this programme to the classroom.

The three primary objectives of the programme are:
- To **raise awareness** of Ireland's equine and racing industry;
- To **increase understanding** of the foal to race story;
- To showcase the many **careers** within this vibrant industry.

The programme provides foundational knowledge for the leaving certificate cycle within **biology, business and agricultural science**. This interdisciplinary approach to a subject reflects real world application of school taught subjects in a flexible and interesting format.

In addition, the programme covers the transferable skills of **group work, public speaking and research**. The inclusion of horse racing careers allows insight into available careers and vocations, which may peak the interest of students during this pivotal time in their schooling.

There are **six chapters** in the programme. Each chapter should take no more than 2 hours to complete. You will have **12 weeks** to cover as many topics as you like.

01 Introduction to Horse Racing
02 Horse Basics
03 Breeding and Stud Farms
04 Making a Racehorse
05 The Tracks
06 Regulation and Representation

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Career Q&As

There will be **career focused Q&As** during the programme; in February, March and April. The guests will be announced approximately 2 weeks in advance and full instructions on how to access this will be sent via **teacher email.** Keep an eye on Agri Aware's **social media** channels also to access this information (links at the end of this document).
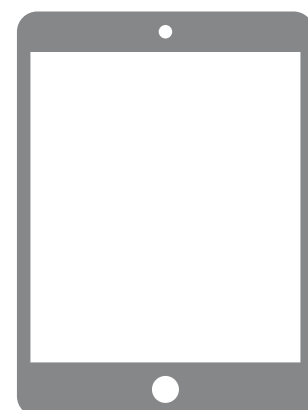
The Teacher's Role

The e-book has been structured to include a **comprehensive overview** of the horse racing industry and does not require a teacher to have prior knowledge. The programme begins with an introduction to the industry and works through to more complex material such as rules and regulations within the industry.

You may **guide the students** through the material in the classroom **OR** allow this to be a **more independent** self-directed programme.

You and your students can cover as much material as you like or as much as you can get through in your allocated time with them. The e-book can be downloaded multiple times and **students will have access to this at home** once they have an **internet connection** and a **device** that can connect to the internet (smartphone, tablet, computer or laptop).

This means that should students have to **learn from home** at any point, the material is still **fully accessible**. There is also the option to print the e-book, however we would not recommend this unless absolutely necessar booklet, however we would not recommend this unless absolutely necessary.y.

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Each chapter includes some or all of the following interactive components:

Key Terms:

At the beginning of each chapter there is an optional **'Before You Begin'** activity. This is to ensure that each participating student understands the key terms for the upcoming chapter. The example to the right is for Chapter 3: Breeding and Stud Farms.

This activity can be done together as a class or as an independent activity once **a hardcopy OR digital copy of a dictionary** is accessible. Ensure that the term is interpreted in relation to horses and/or horse racing.

Short (2+ mins) and Long Tasks (10+ mins):

Each chapter contains a number of tasks. Some tasks are contained within the programme, such as the one below.

Task Three (20 mins): Complete the worksheet below.

Live Click Icons:

Other tasks require you to navigate to videos, additional learning material or relevant websites. **Click on the live icons** to the right to test this experience.

Each of these interactive components **require an internet connection** but are entirely optional. The programme e-book itself contains plenty of material. Should you have access to the internet, we would recommend using all interactive components made available to you.

Before You Begin

The following words are key concepts for the upcoming chapter. Write your understanding of the following words before continuing with the material. Use a dictionary to aid your understanding.

Thoroughbred
Bloodline
Sire
Revenue
Pedigree
Live cover

Agri Aware

The Agri Aware Virtual Farm

Watch Bloodline

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The Student's Role

The students can be guided by a teacher or work independently, whichever works for your classroom structure. We would recommend that the students **utilise all of the interactive components** available to them to enhance their learning experience, particularly if working independently.

Each of the tasks can be performed as individuals, small groups or entire classroom groups. We recommend a brief classroom discussion upon completion of the tasks, should you have the time.
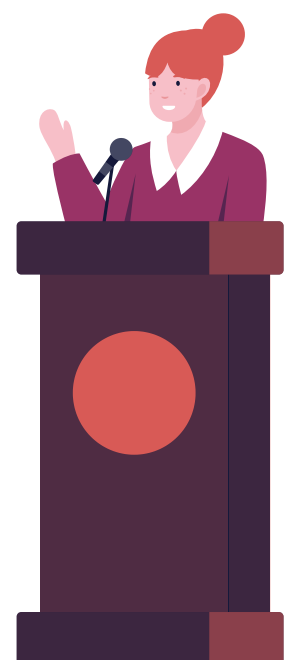
Competition

A **student-led project submission** is required upon completion of the programme. The overall best submission will win a **VIP behind the scenes tour** of one of Ireland's leading racecourses. There is also a **school prize of €1000** to be used for the benefit of student learning. There are also a number of family passes up for grabs including **Fethard House Country Experience** and **The Irish National Stud.** Each pupil that submits a project will receive a certificate of completion.

The students are required to submit **a reflection exercise** through their preferred medium: an essay, poem, short story, written or verbal speech, video presentation, powerpoint presentation, piece of artwork or a filmed drama.

Any written submissions should be a maximum of 1000 words. Any video submissions should be a maximum of 10 minutes in length.

Please note that the **closing date** for submissions is the **28th April 2024**. If your students have completed the programme before this date, they may submit earlier. Further instruction on how to submit will be released after the February midterm break.
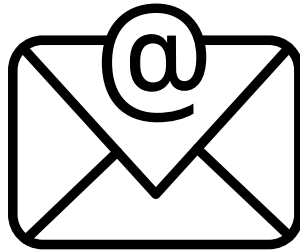
"school prize of €1000 to be used for the benefit of student learning"

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If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Email us at:

office@agriaware.ie

Updates will regularly be given on our social media platforms as well as occasional emails to your sign up email address.

Twitter	@AgriAware	@equuipHRI
Instagram	@agriaware	@equuip_HRI
Facebook	@agriaware	@equuipHRI

Thank you again for signing up to **From Foal to Race** and best of luck with the programme.

Sincerely,

The Agri Aware & Equuip Teams

Agri Aware
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&

equuip | FUNDED BY HORSE RACING IRELAND

From Foal to Race

Sample pages

Chapter 1: Introduction to Horse Racing

Introduction
Jockey Case Study
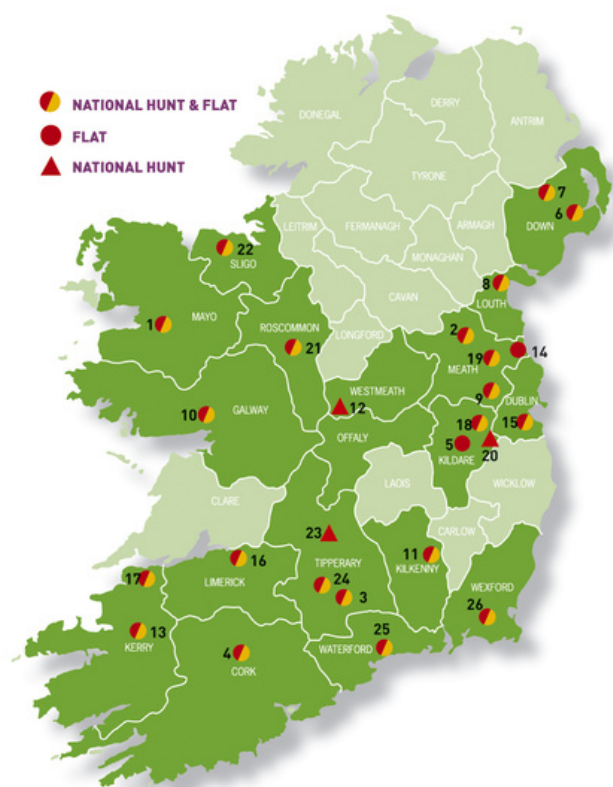## Worksheet One

Pre-programme Questionnaire

Introduction

There are a number of equestrian sports practiced across the globe. Horse racing is one of many. As with many sports, the fanbase is strong. This makes horse racing one of the most popular spectator sports in Ireland. Over 1.28 million people visit Irish racecourses each year. This is on par with Ireland's number one family attraction, Dublin Zoo (1.27 million).

There are a total of 26 racecourses on the island of Ireland.

Task One (5 mins): Take a look at the map and locate your closest racecourse. Identify the type of tracks available at that location.

NATIONAL HUNT & FLAT
FLAT
NATIONAL HUNT

26 IRISH RACECOURSES

1	BALLINROBE	14	LAYTOWN
2	BELLEWSTOWN	15	LEOPARDSTOWN
3	CLONMEL	16	LIMERICK
4	CORK - MALLOW	17	LISTOWEL
5	CURRAGH	18	NAAS
6	DOWNPATRICK	19	NAVAN
7	DOWN ROYAL	20	PUNCHESTOWN
8	DUNDALK	21	ROSCOMMON
9	FAIRYHOUSE	22	SLIGO
10	GALWAY	23	THURLES
11	GOWRAN PARK	24	TIPPERARY
12	KILBEGGAN	25	TRAMORE
13	KILLARNEY	26	WEXFORD

The majority of our racecourses are mixed national hunt and flat racecourses but what does this mean?

National hunt racing requires horses and their riders, known as jockeys, to jump over a number of obstacles as they race including hurdles, fences and ditches. The ability of a horse and jockey to complete this course is largely dependent on their level of **agility** as well as their speed.

Flat racing does not require the horse to complete jumps but requires a high level of speed and **stamina**. With the majority of our racecourses being mixed, this means that both types of races can take place within one site.

From Foal To Race
Jockeys

Within horse racing, there are numerous people involved in getting a horse from foal to race. The first career we're going to take a closer look at is a jockey. Any person can ride a horse, but to be a jockey and to ride in races you must be a trained and registered person.

Jockeys begin their careers as **apprentice** or conditional jockeys. Many people who become jockeys have grown up with family members within the industry but this is not always the case. Jockeys are professional athletes. To become a professional athlete, one must show talent for the sport and dedication to their training.

To begin, hopeful professional jockeys must complete a jockey training course. Once a rider has reached the age of 16, they are eligible to enrol in a training course. The Jockey Training Course at RACE is one of the best foundational courses for becoming a professional jockey. Like many education and training courses, acceptance into the course is highly competitive.

'The most important attributes we look for during trials are a love for horses, a high level of fitness and a good attitude, meaning being a team-player and being coach-able.' RACE

The course at RACE has an impressive track record for producing successful jockeys including Sean Flanagan and Gary Halpin.

Task Two (10 mins): Learn more about what it's like to be a jockey from Sean Flanagan and Gary Halpin.

Sean Flanagan

Gary Halpin

The course takes place over 42 weeks or 10 months and runs from Monday to Friday. Upon successful completion, a QQI Level 4 qualification is received and this prepares the individual for a full time job as an exercise rider. After this, if a rider shows particular skill and commitment, a rider can apply for an apprentice or conditional jockey license.

For more information see the RACE website by clicking below.

Racing Academy and Centre for Education (RACE)

Jockeys begin their careers as apprentice or conditional jockeys. An apprentice jockey must ride 95 winners before they become a full professional. Depending on how many competitions an apprentice undertakes, they can become a full professional in roughly four years.

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