



BASIC HORSE CARE Non-Fiction

This lesson is great for horse lovers or students learning about how to take care of horses.

All information was gathered from the websites:

<http://agriculture.vic.gov.au/agriculture/livestock/horses/basic-horse-care><http://www.horses-and-horse-information.com/articles/0498eating.shtml>

NOTE: This lesson can address the following Common Core State Standards: CCSS.ELA.LITERACY.W.K.2, W.1.2, W.2.2, W.3.2, W.3.2.A, W.3.2.B, W.3.2.C, W.3.2.D, W.4.2, W.4.2.A, W.4.2.B, W.4.2.C, W.4.2.D, W.4.2.E, W.5.2, W.5.2.A, W.5.2.B, W.5.2.C, W.5.2.D and W.5.2.E

Now for the lesson!

1. Tell the storyline: *"You're considering getting a horse as a pet. The horse is going to tell you things you need to know to be a good horse owner. It's going to teach you specifically about founder, a disease that hurts the horses feet. You will write in first person using I and my because the horse is talking to the writer."*
2. Brainstorm (or teach) a horse's most important needs.

A Balanced Diet
Regular Exercise
Feet and Teeth Care
Grooming
Shelter

3. Teach the facts listed in the Information Box about basic horse care. For younger students, you can simply read these facts to them and discuss them. For older students, you can give them their own Bio Box to read, discuss and refer to when they write.
4. Show the 5 sections on the whiteboard
Question(s)/Main Idea
Diet
Exercise
Grooming/Feet Care
Main Idea/Question(s)

Remember: K-1st Graders are encouraged to write 1 sentence for each section,
2nd Graders 2 sentences, 3rd Graders 3 sentences and so on.



Now to write!

Guide the students through each step. They are free to use their own words.

1. Write a question to grab the reader's attention.

Do you want a horse?

OR

Are you considering buying and owning a horse?

2. Follow the question(s) with the main idea that horses require a lot of work.

Here are some examples:

I want to be your pet, but I am a lot of work!

OR

I'd love to be your pet! However, horses require a lot of work. We are a big responsibility. We require a lot of time and effort. We are also expensive.

3. Write about diet and founder.

I need a lot of grass and hay. I can't get fat. It will hurt my feet.

OR

I will need a lot of food such as pasture and hay. It's better for me to graze in the morning and evening when the sugars in grass aren't as high. I love to eat, but it's important that you don't feed me too much. If I'm overweight, I can develop a disease called founder that hurts my feet.

4. Write about exercise.

I need lots of exercise so I don't get fat.

OR

It's important to make me exercise each day. There are several ways I can exercise...

5. Write about grooming and/or feet care.

Use a curry comb to get out the loose hair.

OR

Grooming can be done in three steps. First, ...

6. Restate the main idea and ask a question for the reader to reflect on.

So you see, I am a lot of work! Do you think you can handle it? If so, I'd love to be your pet!



INFORMATION ABOUT HORSE CARE

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BASIC HORSE CARE

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| Diet | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Restrict feed to spring pastures and in the morning or evening-Plant sugars are higher in the middle of the day-Founder is a very painful disease that affects a horse's hoof-Foundering happens to overweight ponies-Ponies become overweight if they eat an excessive amount of pasture, hay, grain or pelleted feed-lots of clean water |
| Exercise | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Ride the horse-Lead the horse (walking a horse)-Have the horse lunge |
| Feet | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Have a farrier trim the hooves every 6-8 weeks.-Have a farrier put on shoes if the horse is ridden on hard or rocky ground-Use a hoof pick to remove rocks, dirt and debris. |
| Grooming | <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Use a curry comb to remove loose hair from the horse.-Use a stiff brush to take off the dirt. Brush the neck, body and tail.-Use a soft brush around the eyes, ears and muzzle. |

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