

## What is the biggest breed of horse?

Draft horses are the largest breeds, with many weighing nearly a ton and towering well above their owners. The shire breed is the biggest of the drafts. The Guinness World Records has the horse named Samson as the largest horse that ever lived. Samson was born in England in 1846 and weighed 3,300 pounds and was over seven feet tall at his withers.

### Math Moment:

Horses are measured in units called "Hands" 1 hand = about 4 inches.

If Samson was 7.5 feet tall at his withers then how many "hand high" was he?

7.5 x \_\_\_\_\_ inches in a foot = \_\_\_\_\_ inches  
 \_\_\_\_\_ inches divided by 4 inches  
 in a \_\_\_\_\_ = \_\_\_\_\_ hands

Can you think of other words with the word part "Hippus" or "Hippo" in it?

**Here are some:**

- "Hippopotamus" = "river horse"
- "Hippodrome" = a stadium where the Romans raced their chariots
- "Hippogriff" = A animal as seen in Harry Potter. Front part griffen ( bird) and the back part a horse.
- "Hippocampus" = The Greeks used this name as for a sea horse but it now refers to a part of your brain!

## I would like to buy a vowel please.

Add vowels to complete the words below, that name tools used around the barn.

SH \_ V \_ L  
 R \_ K \_  
 B \_ CK \_ T  
 H \_ S \_  
 WH \_ \_ L B \_ RR \_ W  
 H \_ Y F \_ RK  
 M \_ N \_ \_ R \_ \_ F \_ RK  
 SCR \_ B BR \_ SH

## Which is Which?

Draw a circle around the words that describe western riding , clothes or tack. Underline the words that describe English riding clothes or tack. Some words can be both.

- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| STIRRUP IRONS  | GIRTH          |
| GIRTH          | BREECHES       |
| CINCH          | PADDOCK        |
| JEANS          | BOOTS          |
| BELT           | STIRRUP        |
| HUNT CAP       | COWBOY HAT     |
| HALF CHAPS     | CHINKS         |
| BAT WING CHAPS | ROPER BOOTS    |
| BOOTS          | SADDLE PAD     |
| ROPING SADDLE  | DESSAGE SADDLE |
| GLOVES         | SLICKER        |
| MUCK BOOTS     | CURB BIT       |
| D RING SNAFFLE | BOSAL          |

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Purpose of CHA: To promote excellence in safety and education internationally for the benefit of the horse industry.

### teamCHA POLL:

## What if Santa used horses instead of Reindeer?

What if Santa had to replace all the reindeer with horse breeds. Which breeds do you think would be best to pull the sleigh full of all the goodies?

**Send your answers to...**

For a CHA Certified Instructor or a CHA Program Member camp or equestrian facility near you log onto [www.cha-ahse.org](http://www.cha-ahse.org), or call (800) 399-0138.

I need pics of these books... I couldn't find 'em online

## new books for you!

**Hey Team CHA members!** Looking for a fun new book on everything about horses? Do you like the games in these newsletters? Do you like silly characters and interesting activities?

The American Quarter Horse Association as printed two great books that give you all of this and more. *The Junior Master Horseman* books levels one and two have all sorts of fun facts, games, activities, cartoons, pictures and more.

Concho the all around horse will tell you about different vocabulary words, Skitter the Ornerly barn rat will give you ideas on journal writing, and Maisy the wise spider has a "Did you know" spot in each chapter. You can find math puzzles, and crafty activities to keep you busy on even the rainiest day!

Even if you are the type of person who does not like to read these books have lots of great photographs and pictures to look at.

Check out these to two books today, you will be glad you did!

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# fun facts

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## Is it true that a horse's hoof is really his middle finger (or toe)?

Where did the other toes go? Scientist have found fossils of the earliest horse they call the Eohippus ("Eo" means first, "Hippus" means horse) These first horses had 4 toes on their front feet and 3 on their back all with nails or tiny hooflets. Where they lived it was very swampy but the earth then started to dry and become hard. Horses now needed to run across this hard uneven ground so animals that developed the single toe were able to get away and live other day. The 4 toes changed into one with the "middle" toe becoming weight bearing. The other bones or "toes" are still around in the leg, they are called splint bones but their job now is to hold tendons in place. The horse does not stand on them.



## What, exactly is a horse of a different color?

This phrase means "it is not what you thought" Horses are registered when they are born. On the papers it should say what the color of both the sire (dad horse) and dam (mother horse) are and records the markings as well. When a horse is traded or sold the papers are transferred and the markings and color is checked. A "horse of a different color" than the one listed on the papers would make people think someone is not telling the truth. Sometimes the color difference is true. Mother nature does play tricks with the color as the horse grows older. Dalmatian dogs are born without spots; dark grey horses can sometimes turn almost white as they age.

## Water, Water, Water Everywhere and Not A drop to Drink!

Water is at the top of needs for all living things. People, plants, animals and of course our friend the horse need a good supply of water everyday to be healthy and happy. Water helps with digestion, the absorption of important nutrients and the removal of waste. Water also helps control our body temperature and keeps all of our insides working well.

If a horse is dehydrated that means they have lost too much body fluid. This is unhealthy for any living being. Horses need access to clean water all year round, all the time whether or not they are out in the pasture or living in a stall.

A person should drink 6 to 8 cups of water a day, a horse can drink 10 -15 gallons of water a day depending on what they have been doing.

### Math Moment:

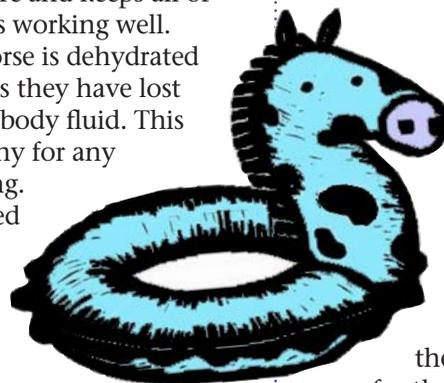
2 cups = pint (one pint is what you might drink in a small milk carton at lunch.)  
2 pints = quart  
4 quarts = Gallon

If a horse drinks 12 gallons in a day , How many cups of water would that be?

12 gallons x \_\_\_\_\_ quarts = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ quarts x \_\_\_\_\_ pints = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ pints x \_\_\_\_\_ cups = \_\_\_\_\_

If you drank 8 cups of water a day how many days would it take you to drink 12 gallons like the horse?

Answer  
12 gals x 4 quarts = 48 qts  
48qts x 2 pints = 96 pints  
96 pints x 2 cups = 192 cups. 192 divided by 8 = 24 days



### Small Science

**Fact.** Water is sometimes called H2O. The letter H stands for the element Hydrogen the letter O stands for the element Oxygen.

There is one part Hydrogen and 2 parts Oxygen in each water molecule. The most interesting part of this molecule is that when these elements are apart they are a gas, you can't see them, they are like the wind. But when they come together they are in a liquid form and you can see and feel it. Water is totally a awesome element and we need to protect all of our recourses.

# BREED SPOTLIGHT



Assateague and Chincoteague ponies are mainly found on the Island of Assateague and the close island of Chincoteague off the coast of Virginia, America. They came to live on these islands in different ways. They were of Spanish and North African origin and may have escaped from their early colonial owners, others may have place there when horse taxes were introduced. People just started taking notice of them in the 1920's and they are basically

feral (wild) ponies. They stand about 12 hands high can be any color and many are pinto. The Chincoteague Fire Department takes care of all of them now and once a year they have a pony penning festival where they sell some horse to raise money to care for them. They have introduced the Shetland and welsh pony breeds into the herd to make them stronger.

## Can Horses' swim?

Horses like most 4 legged creatures are born knowing how to swim. The instinct to start swimming as soon as their legs hit the water seems to be apart of them from the beginning. It just comes naturally. To see a horse swimming it looks like he is trotting under water with his head above the surface. It is hard work for a horse to swim at first so they can not do it for a long time. Four to five minutes would be a long time. Some time swimming is used to help horses who are injured or to help with training and building strength. If a horse can practice for awhile they could work up to swimming for about an hour.



## Why do Horses groom each other?

Horses are social animals and like to hang out with their friends. Horses in the wild live in herd groups where they develop strong bonds with each other. Since they like each other already and they have places that itch and they can't get to, it make sense that they would help each other out. You know " you scratch my back and I will scratch yours" Horses really are not cleaning each other in a grooming method, they are just getting rid of an itch. When they are doing this they are building the bonds of friendship between themselves.



ATTENTION all youth – you can attend the CHA International Conference in Ft. Collins, Colorado for only \$45 a day! Register online.

Make sure to always wear your ASTM-SEI approved helmet, riding boots, and pants!

Questions and answers in the text maybe found in the book "Why do Horses sleep standing up?" Author Mary Becker D.V.M. and coauthored by Audrey Pavia, Gina Spadafori, and Teresa Becker.