

Read the short story. Then answer each question.

Horses

Horses are beautiful creatures. They can be different colors, and can run quickly. People like to watch horses because they are strong and powerful.

Horses are mammals. Mammals are animals that have hair or fur, are warm-blooded, and usually give birth to live young. The mother horse generally has one baby in the spring, and feeds the baby milk. Horses have long legs, and big eyes that can see almost all the way around them. They can walk, trot, gallop and jump.

Young horses that are one year old or younger are called foals. A young female horse is called a filly, and a young male horse is called a colt. After 4 years, a horse is considered an adult. Many people think that a pony is a young horse, but that is incorrect. A pony is a type of horse that does not grow very large.

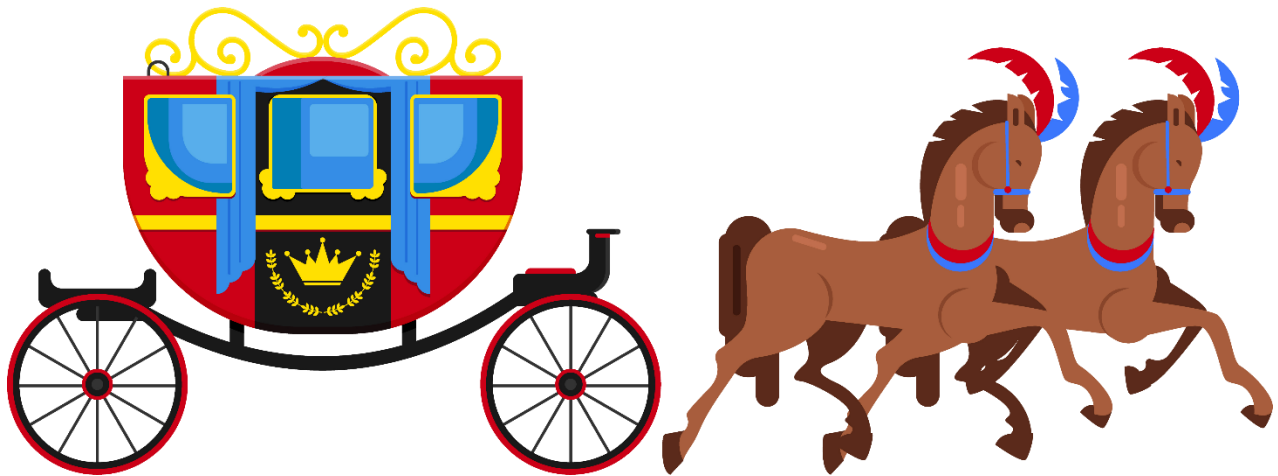
Horses can live up to 20 or 25 years. Sometimes people can tell how old a horse is by looking at its teeth! They generally sleep standing up, so that if a predator approaches, they can run away quickly. Horses only need about three hours of sleep per day! Their hooves need to be taken care of. Horse hooves are like our fingernails, which need to be trimmed. If a horse is doing a lot of walking on hard ground, people put horseshoes on them, then take off the horseshoes when the hooves need trimming. New horseshoes are then put on.

For food, horses eat foods such as grass, hay, oats, corn, apples, and carrots. They are herbivores, meaning they do not eat other animals. Their stomachs are small, so they need small, frequent feedings.



There are wild horses, but many people have horses as pets, too. They ride the horses and may teach the horses tricks. When people first started to take horses as pets, they were just used for work. The horses would pull carriages so people could ride places, or plows so the farmers could more easily tend their fields. Horses were also used to move goods from place to place, by carrying objects on their backs. Some horses now work as therapy horses. These horses help people with disabilities become more calm and comfortable, or work muscles they might not otherwise be able to work.

When these strong creatures are treated with care, they make wonderful companions. What else do you know about horses?



Questions:

1. What is the difference between a horse's diet and a human diet?

2. What does "*foal*" mean in the 3rd paragraph? How do you know?

3. The first paragraph includes some opinions about horses. Highlight the opinions. Replace them with facts that would still make sense in that paragraph.

4. Did you have any misconceptions (something you thought you knew, but found out to be incorrect after reading the short story) about horses? What were they?

Answers:

1. What is the difference between a horse's diet and a human diet?
Horses eat foods such as grass, hay, oats, corn, apples, and carrots. Human don't grass or hay, but we do eat grains, fruits, vegetables and meat. The main difference is that horses don't eat meat.
2. What does "foal" mean in the 3rd paragraph? How do you know?
Foal means a young horse less than one year old. Young horses that are one year old or younger are called foals.
3. The first paragraph includes some opinions about horses. Highlight the opinions. Replace them with facts that would still make sense in that paragraph.
Horses are beautiful creatures. – Horses are creatures that many believe are beautiful.
People like to watch horses because they are strong and powerful. – Horses are strong and powerful.
4. Did you have any misconceptions (something you thought you knew, but found out to be incorrect after reading the short story) about horses? What were they?
Answers will vary.