Horse Breeds and Uses

Objectives:

* To develop social skills and facilitate cooperation.
* To promote self understanding and learning skills.
* To develop decision-making skills.
* To enhance self-esteem.
* To develop physical skills
* To classify types of horses.
* To identify breeds through distinguishable characteristics.
* To create awareness of functional horse uses.

Group Size: 6 to 8 children per adult volunteer.

Time Frame: This lesson is designed for a 30 to 60 minute gathering.

Background: Understanding history, purpose of development, and characteristics of the breed is an important factor in selection of a horse. Through these experiences children will observe, sort, and categorize, developing decision making skills. The children will classify horses on basis of type, use, and breed.

Life Skill Areas:

* The group activities and discussions develop social interaction skills.

**Decision-making skills will be developed through distinguishing differences, sorting, and matching activities.**

*Activities which introduce new information and are followed by a discussion will aid children in learning how to learn.*

* Fine motor skills will be developed by constructing collages, piecing together puzzles, and other various paper and pencil activities.

Helps To The Volunteer:

Try these suggestions:

* Choose one or two of the following activities from each section.

* Try to create appropriate atmosphere by decorating the room with posters and props, using costumes related to the activity, pre-meeting preparation by the 4-H members, thinking about special seating arrangements, and playing background music.
Learning Activities:

I. GETTING STARTED...

Activity: “Distinguishing Differences” (7 - 10 minutes)
Grade Level: K - 5
Materials: Pictures depicting several breeds of horses (See attached handouts from Horseless Horse book)
Copies of horse outline worksheet (Refer to Horseless Horse book)
Crayons

Hang the pictures in a location so it is easily seen by all children. Ask children if all people are alike. Explain that people are similar, but have many differences, which is also true for horses. While horses have four legs, a mane, a tail, and head, they differ in color, size, muscling, markings, and shapes... just like people differ. Have the children describe the various horses on the poster by color, size, markings, and other distinguishable characteristics. Ask children to describe differences between two horses. Be sure that all children participate, and are recognized for their participation. Distribute horse worksheets and crayons. Have the children color their horse.

Activity: “Sorting Types of Horses” (3 - 5 minutes)
Grade Level: K - 2
Materials: Numerous pictures of different types of horses (light, draft, and pony) (Refer to Horseless Horse book as well as various magazines)

Ask the children to describe the biggest and smallest horse they have ever seen. Explain that there are three basic types of horses: pony, light, and draft. Pair the children into groups of two. Give each group 10 to 15 pictures, representing each classification of horse, and ask them to sort the pictures into three piles. Be sure to emphasize good team work and cooperation.

Application:
~ Ask the children to observe a horse show and see if they can identify the three different classifications of horses.

Activity: “Uses of Horses” (3 - 5 minutes)
Grade Level: K - 2
Materials: None:

Have the children sit in a circle. Explain that many horses are used for pleasure riding. Ask the children to name different ways horses are used for riding. “Horses are also used for work, can you name some of the ways horses are used for work?” “What are some different ways horses are used for entertainment?” “Did you know that in some countries horses are used for food like cattle are used in the United States?” Be sure to encourage each child to participate.

Application:
~ Have the children explain the uses of horses to a parent or family member.
II. DIGGING DEEPER...

Activity: "Sizes" (7 - 10 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: Measuring tape or yard stick
A long sheet of blank paper which could be taped to the wall

Have the children line up in a straight line from shortest to tallest and mark their height. Place each child’s name above their height marking. Explain that, just like people, horses are different sizes. Ask the children how we measure our height; miles, feet, kilometers? Explain that a horse’s height is measured in units called "hands" which is four inches and is the approximate width of an adult’s hand. The height of the animal determines whether it is a horse or pony, and many breeds produce animals of approximately the same height. On the same paper, mark heights of various breeds to illustrate that animal heights differ just like children’s heights did.

Application:
- Ask the children to measure themselves with a parent and convert their measurement from feet to hands to see how tall they would be if they were a horse.

Activity: "This Breed Is" (10 - 12 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: Old horse magazines Construction paper
Children’s scissors Tape or glue

Make an example of a collage prior to the meeting. "Collage" may be a new word to many of the children. Explain that they are going to make a picture having many separate pictures of horses glued together. Have each child select a breed. When all of the works of art are finished have the children sit in a circle and tell about their breed and collage.

Activity: "Piecing Together the Puzzle" (10 - 12 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: Horse puzzles (Construct by selecting large pictures of horses in different uses, glue to cardboard, and cut into six to eight large puzzle pieces.) (Refer to Horseless Horse book)

Pair the children into groups of two. Provide each group with puzzles to assemble. After each group assembles their puzzle, have them trade puzzles with another group and piece that puzzle together. Once all of the children put the puzzles together, discuss how they knew where to put the pieces. Did the children look to match colors or shapes etc. Discuss and praise their work.

Activity: "Where in the world?" (10 - 12 minutes)

Grade Level: K - 2

Materials: A world map Tape
Individual small pictures of different horse breeds (See attached handouts from Horseless Horse book)
Hang the map in a location visible to all children. Explain to the children that different breeds of horses come from different parts of the world. Many times these animals came to be, because of the type of weather, terrain, or work these horses needed to perform in. Discuss various breeds, placing the picture in the country or region of origin.

Application:
- Ask the children to speak with a parent or grandparent to learn about their heritage. Can they locate where their ancestors came from on the map?

III. LOOKING WITHIN...

Activity:  
"Horse Riddles?" (3 - 5 minutes)

Grade Level:  K - 2

Materials:  A list of riddles (Provided below)

Have the children sit in a circle and ask them the following riddles:

I am big and strong and I work in the fields.
   Who am I? - Draft Horse
I am very fast and I race in the Kentucky Derby.
   Who am I? - Thoroughbred / Race Horse
I like to go for rides in the woods.
   Who am I? - Trail Horse
I work in a rodeo and my job is to buck my rider from my back.
   Who am I? - Bucking Horse / Bronco Horse
I like to run and slide and spin.
   Who am I? - Reining Horse
I work on a ranch rounding up cattle.
   Who am I? - Cutting Horse / Ranch Horse
I got my name because I am the fastest breed to run a quarter of a mile.
   Who am I? - Quarter Horse
My breed was named after the school teacher who owned me, Justin Morgan.
   Who am I? - Morgan Horse
My breed came from Tennessee and I have a very different walk.
   Who am I? - Tennessee Walking Horse
My breed was developed by the Nez Perce Indians and I have small spots on my coat.
   Who am I? - Appaloosa Horse
I like to follow the hounds, jumping over obstacles, on fox hunts.
   Who am I? - Hunter Horse
I am a very big horse and I pull a wagon in parades.
   Who am I? - Clydesdale Horse

IV. BRINGING CLOSURE...

Activity:  "Red Rover" (10 - 15 minutes)

Grade Level:  K - 2

Materials:  None.

Divide the children into two teams. Each child is designated a certain breed. Review the rules for Red Rover. Explain that the children are divided into two groups and join hands while facing each other about 30 feet