Harnesses & Hitches

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What We Will Cover Today

• Overview of Harness Types/Parts
  • Light
  • Draft

• Common Hitch Types

• Common Vehicles

• Learning Ideas

Harness Types

• Light Harness
  • Aka Fine Harness or Breast Strap harness
  • Used for pulling medium & light weight vehicles
    • Horse “pushes” against breast collar/strap
    • Some variation of style
  • Defining features:
    • Breast strap
    • Will always have crupper
  • Carriage driving, Standardbred racing, combined driving, pleasure vehicles, etc.
Light Harness
Light Harness
Harness Types

• **Heavy Harness**
  • Aka Collar & Hames harness
  • Used for pulling heavy loads & vehicles
    • Padded collar allows horse to use more of his bodyweight to “push” load
  • Defining features:
    • Heavy collar with hames
    • Breeching on single, team and wheelers
      • Farm work, work wagons, freight wagons, draft show ring, draft pull, etc.
Heavy Harness
Heavy Harness
Heavy Harness
Hitch Terms

- **Spike**
  - Single horse in front of one or more horses
- **Wheel horse or Wheelers**
  - Horse(s) hitched closest to the vehicle
- **Leaders**
  - Pair of horses at the front of a hitch of 4 or more horses
- **Swing team**
  - Pair of horses right behind the leaders in a hitch consisting of 6 or more horses
- **Body team**
  - Pair of horses right behind the swing team in a hitch consisting of 8 or more horses

Hitch Types

- **Hitch Type**
  - Refers to the number of horses and the configuration of those horses hitched to a vehicle
  - Limited to those found in resources
    - Not all types covered in this presentation
Hitch Types

- **Single**
  - One horse in front of a vehicle

- **Team or Pair**
  - Two horses side by side
Hitch Types

• **Tandem**
  - Two horses in a single line
  - Spike horse followed by a wheel horse
  - Commonly used in tight work spaces such as logging
  - Demonstrate training of the horse or “skill” of driver

• **Random**
  - Three horses in a single line
Hitch Types

• Quadrem
  • Four horses in a single line

![Quadrem Image]

Fun Fact: The middle horse trots while the two outside horses canter/gallop

Hitch Types

• Troika
  • Classic Russian hitch with three horses hitched side-by-side (abreast)
  • Two outside horse’s heads bent outward

![Troika Image]
Hitch Types

• Unicorn
  • One (spike) horse in front of a team

Hitch Types

• Pickaxe Hitch
  • Three horses (abreast) hitched in front of a team
  • Can be reversed (reverse pickaxe)
Hitch Types

• Four Horse Hitch
  • Two horses (leaders) in front of two horses (wheelers) closest to the vehicle

• Six Horse Hitch
  • Two horses (leaders) in front of two horses in the middle (swing team) in front of two horses (wheelers) closest to the vehicle
**Hitch Types**

- **Eight Horse Hitch**
  - Two horses (leaders) in front of horses in the middle (swing team) in front of two horses (body team) followed by two horses (wheelers) closest to the vehicle

**Vehicle Types**

- **Clues to Identification**
  - Type of locomotion
    - Wheels
    - Sled
    - Various farm equipment
  - Perceived use
    - Presence of springs, steps, open cargo area, etc.
  - Number of wheels
    - Size of wheels
  - Location of drivers seat
  - Location, orientation, & size of passenger seat(s)/area
  - Enclosed or open
    - Presence/location of folding top or hood
  - Ornamentation
Vehicle Types

• 3 different classifications
  • Cart
    • Two wheels, seat, springs, and shafts
    • Many variations according to purpose
  • Four-wheeled Carriage
    • Four wheels
    • Primarily made for passengers
    • Allow for more passengers, smoother ride than cart
    • Many variations according to purpose
  • Wagon
    • Four wheels
    • Primarily used to move freight
    • Many variations according to purpose

Vehicle Types

• Gig
  • Two wheeled vehicle used in the past for fox hunting
Vehicle Types

• Omnibus
  • Covered public coach
  • Long body with seats arranged length-wise and a rear entrance

![Omnibus Image]

Vehicle Types

• Vis-a-Vis
  • Open carriage for 4 passengers that are seated face to face

![Vis-a-Vis Image]
Vehicle Types

- **Hansom Cab**
  - Two wheeled vehicle with the body enclosed
  - Seat for the coachman is located behind the passenger seat
  - Usually drawn by one horse

Vehicle Types

- **Phaeton**
  - Open carriage with a high front seat and a lower rear seat
  - Only the front seat is protected by a hood (optional)
Vehicle Types

• Victoria
  • Summer vehicle for two people plus coachman, has a low seat and folding top
  • Introduced by Prince of Wales and a favorite coach of fashionable ladies due to the ease of entry and exit

Learning Ideas

• Study Sheets
• Youth activities in references
• What's worked for me
• Games!
Harness Parts & Types

Learning Ideas:

• Study sheets
  • Horse Smarts, 2016

• “Parts of a Harness” youth activity
  • Horse Smarts, 2016
Harness Parts & Types

Learning Ideas:
- Flash Cards
  - Different parts

Blinder

Harness Parts & Types

Learning Ideas:
- Real Harness
  - Label
  - “Bucket-O-Harness”
  - Fit to real animal
Harness Parts & Types

Learning Ideas:

• **Parts of a Harness Game**
  • Adapted from Horse Smarts, 2016
  • “Gee Haw” section- beginner activity

• **What you will need:**
  • Poster(s) of each harness type
  • Part tags in at least two different colors
    • Lamination or cardstock
  • Velcro “dots”
  • Dice
  • Answer sheet
Harness Parts & Types

Learning Ideas:

• **Parts of a Harness Game**
  • Adapted from Horse Smarts, 2016
  • “Gee Haw” section- beginner activity

• **How to Play:**
  • Split players into two groups
  • Each member rolls dice and number on dice is how many facedown part tags they must draw and stick to poster
  • Can cycle through once or multiple times
  • Can allow players that go after to move tags...or not
  • Game ends after cycle through players- team with most correct tags wins

Hitches

Learning Ideas:

• **Driving Me Crazy Game**
  • Horse Smarts, 2016

• **What you will need:**
  • Copies of “Driving images” worksheet
  • Color
  • Other images
  • Images keys
  • Blank index cards
  • Tape/double stick tape/glue
  • Answer sheet/ knowledgeable “overseer”
  • Optional: scrapbook paper & adhesive spray for back of cards/ lamination
Hitches

Learning Ideas:

• Driving Me Crazy Game
  • Glue/tape 4-7 images to cards
    • Unique, various sizes of images, orientation
  • Need at least 5 cards per player (depends on time/players)

• How to Play:
  • Need at least 2 players
    • Players get key of images
  • Deal each player equal number of cards
    • Don’t have to use all cards
    • All cards facedown, can only flip one face-up when game begins
  • Game begins when one card is placed in center
    • Match image on that card with their face-up card and must call out correct name of hitch then place in center
  • Game ends when first player runs out of cards!

Hitches

Learning Ideas:

• Driving Me Crazy Game
What’s NOT Covered in This Presentation

- Harness
  - Use of specific parts
- Hitches
  - Other types of hitches
- Vehicles
  - Other types of vehicles
  - Part Identification
- Driving Disciplines
- Driving Terms

Horse Smarts

- Introduction
  - How to use book and general layout
  - What can/cannot be copied
- Some activities have additional information NOT covered in text
- Index and book corrections will be sent out in 2018