



ACTIVITY 5

Horse Traits Mix Up



RANCH LIFE SERIES / BOOK 2 / COWBOYS AND HORSES

Chapter 4C

Content Area

Science

Topic

Inherited Traits of Horses

Objective

Students will explore and describe inherited traits and learned behaviors of horses.

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS):

4.10B, 5.10B





Horse Traits Mix Up

CONTENT AREA: Science

TOPIC: Inherited Traits of Horses

GAME MATERIALS:

- SECURITY BRIEFING (page A5-2): 1 per student or student group
- Brass fastener
- Jumbo paperclip
- POSTER (8.5" X 11" sheet of paper): 1 per student
- HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - DATA SHEET (page A5-3): 1 per student
- HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - SPINNER (page A5-4): 1 per student
- THE BOTTOM LINE (page A5-5): 1 per student or student group

READING STRATEGY:

N/A

GAME INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have students read Chapter 5C.
2. Students will become horses for this activity. They will spin the HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - SPINNER and record the traits they have inherited as a horse on the HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - DATA SHEET.
3. Using the data students collect on the DATA SHEET, students will create a POSTER to advertise themselves (as a horse) to Loper and Slim.
4. Students will present their POSTERS and decide which horses Slim and Loper would like to purchase. Number students off 1 to 40. Even numbers will be the horses and odd numbers will be cowboys. Each horse will have 30 seconds to advertise themselves using their poster. The cowboys will select the horse they would like to purchase. Then have groups switch roles and repeat.

STUDENT SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

Have students (or student groups) complete THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet at the end of the game.

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SECURITY BRIEFING –

WORDS OF WISDOM FROM HANK THE COWDOG:

*It's me again, Hank the Cowdog. As you know, I am the Head of Security here on the ranch and I am the most important because I keep everyone safe. The second most important animal on the ranch is the horse! Cowboys use their horses for many tasks, including moving things around the ranch, herding cattle, and hauling loads. The horse's **attributes** are very important. A cowboy must think about the tasks they need the horse to perform to determine which **characteristics** would be the most useful. Loper needs your help selecting another horse for the ranch.*

ACTIVITY INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Read Chapter 5C.
2. For this activity, you are going to become a horse! Spin the HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - SPINNER to see what traits you are going to inherit. Record your traits on the HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - DATA SHEET. Be sure to fill out each section of the data sheet using the descriptions and scores from the spinner and your book to list advantages, disadvantages and cowboy notes. Total your score at the bottom.
3. Using the data you collected on the HORSE TRAITS MIX UP - DATA SHEET and the 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper provided to you, create a POSTER to advertise yourself (as a horse) to Loper and Slim. You will have 30 seconds to give your advertising presentation.

Note: A high score on your data sheet, means you have a lot of desirable traits! A low score means that your traits are less desirable. Keep this in mind as you decide what to use as selling points on your poster. For example, if you have a low overall score, play up your best traits!

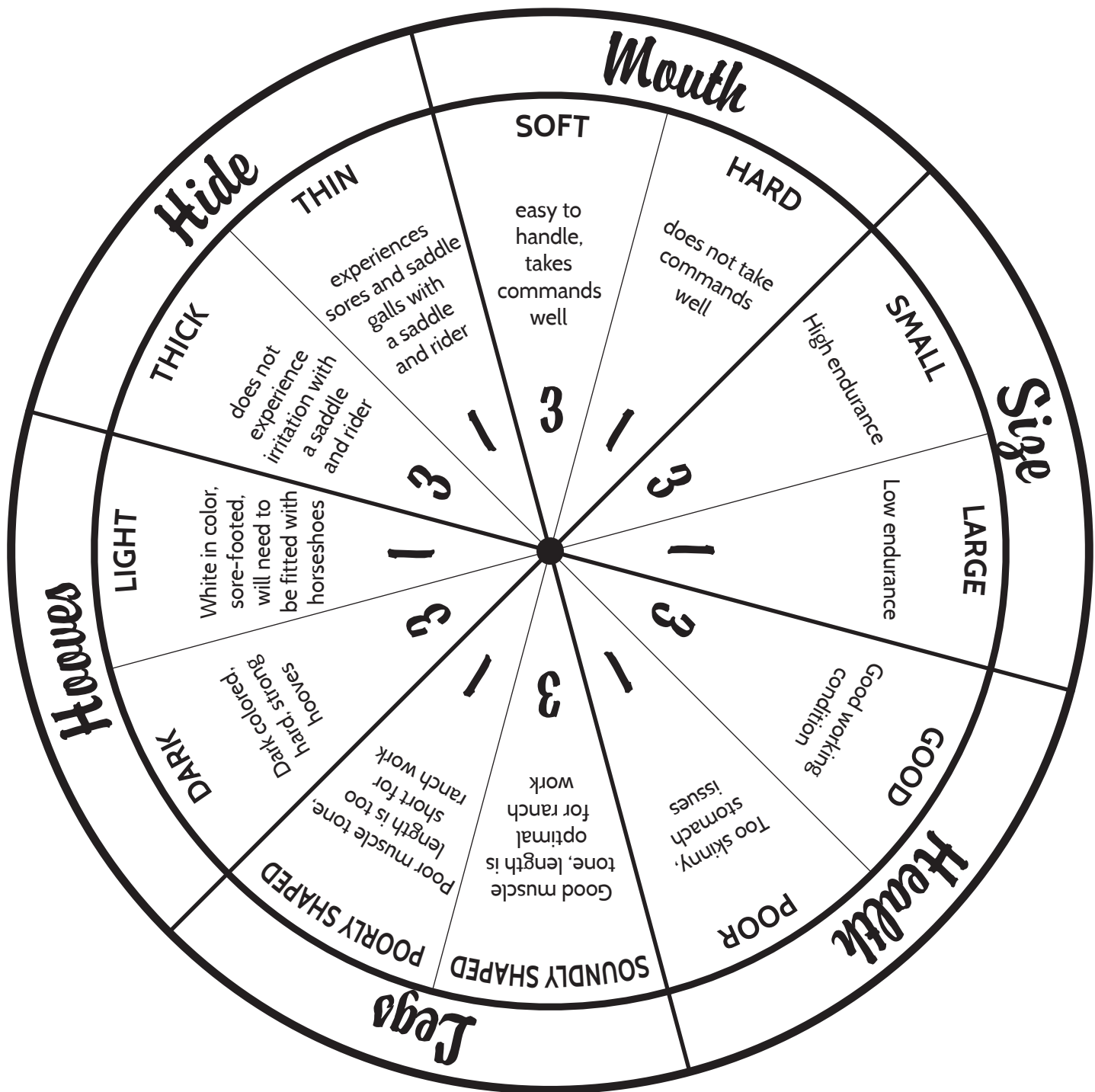
WRAP UP:

Fill out THE BOTTOM LINE worksheet after you have completed the activity.



Horse Traits Mix Up - Data Sheet

BODY PART	BODY PART TRAIT(S) DESCRIPTION	SCORE	ADVANTAGE(S)	DISADVANTAGE(S)	COWBOY'S NOTES
Mouth					
Size					
Health					
Legs					
Hooves					
Hide					
TOTAL SCORE					





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NAME: _____ DATE: _____

THE BOTTOM LINE

Each horse that went to market had different advantages and disadvantages. Cowboys and ranchers must think carefully about what they want to accomplish with the horses they purchase for use on the ranch.

Reflect on what your horse had to offer at market. Using the chart below, explain why your horse's traits could have been an advantage or disadvantage to a rancher.

	TRAIT(S)	ADVANTAGE(S)	DISADVANTAGE(S)
Mouth			
Size			
Health			
Legs			
Hooves			
Hide			