



Necessity to Sport

Students will be able to describe at least three popular competitive equestrian activities that are based on the historic uses of horses in industry and military service.



Welcome students to your farm and review rules for a safe visit. Begin the day with a joust - Maryland's official sport! Explain that jousting is an ancient form of military training for mounted knights that became a favorite equestrian sport during the 1800s, worldwide.

Explain how the rules of jousting work: to capture a small target on a long lance held by the rider as the horse gallops full speed down a jousting lane! Hold a **hoola-hoop** above your head and explain that riders must first practice their aim and accuracy.

How many equestrian sports can students name? For each correct answer invite the student to throw a **pool noodle** through the hoola-hoop that you hold at various heights and angles for each contributor. Have fun with this!



Lead the students on a farm tour that includes places such as tractor sheds, a driveway with cars or the school bus, and other equipment or service that in the past may have involved horsepower.

Meet the horses on the farm and talk to some of the people who work there. As you walk along, talk about the roles and duties horses have played in people's lives in the past and what kinds of technologies have replaced them.

If you have horse-drawn equipment about, explore it. Share copies of **old photographs** of how horses taxied people in carriages, towed Baltimore's trolleys, carried Maryland hunters across the landscape, delivered the mail, and served bravely in battles here and overseas.

Explain

Depending on what equine events your farm hosts, plan to feature an equine sport that you are very familiar with and that has roots in historic necessity. Have a variety of equipment available for students to examine, touch, and try.

If your farm hosts or participates in combined driving events, have period clothing available (jackets, hats, skirts) for select students to try on. If your farm participates in hunts, invite a show jumper and huntsman with a favorite hound to visit with students. Offer a demonstration of your favorite event or show a short video if you have access to a big screen and projector.

Take all questions and be enthusiastic for all interested to come to an event. Recruit and invite! Do you have complementary tickets to share? Coupons or passes?

Elaborate

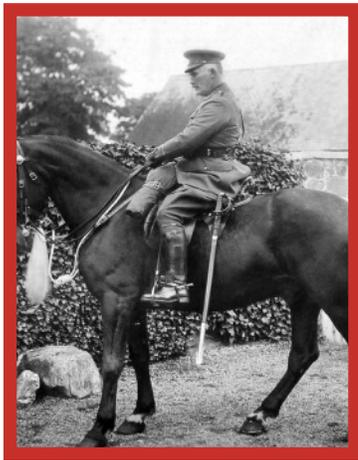
With student input, make a list on chart paper of all the ways horses assisted people in everyday life up until engines and mechanical technologies replaced horsepower. Categorize the activities into three groups: industry, military duty, and essential services.

Divide the class into three working groups and give each group a clipboard with paper and pen, large chart paper, markers, and the following instructions:

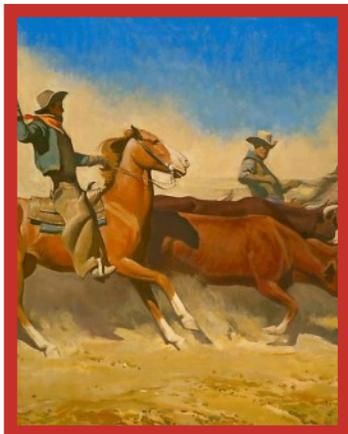
1. Select one activity group (military duty, essential services, or industry) and discuss how horses were used in this activity. You may interview farm staff and your farm-based educator for ideas and history specific to the activities.
2. On the clipboard, list all the of the actions the horse must perform in order to complete the task(s) in this activity. Does it need to jump high? Pull heavy wagons? Maneuver through obstacles on a busy city street?
3. List all of the people skills needed to guide and control a horse in this activity.
4. Invent an equine sport that resembles the historic use of the horse in this activity. On the chart paper create a course (birds-eye view) that features challenges that both horse and rider or driver need to perform in order to complete the tasks involved. Include illustrations of the horse and rider or driver attempting different parts of the course.
5. Draw and label special equipment needed to participate in the sporting event.
6. Share each team's sport with the class. What is the name of the sport? Announce with great flourish!



Make a **set of cards** that illustrate or describe historic uses of horses and the modern event activities that match. There may be several correct matches depending upon the event. Turn all cards face down in front of students and invite them to flip two cards per turn to make a match. To make a match, the student will need to explain how the historic use of the horse relates to the modern competition or events.



Dressage has its roots in military training for war horses and cavalry men.



Calf roping competition comes from traditions of cattle drives in South America and the American West.