

Shades, Stars, And Stripes

Students will be able to recognize and identify the variety and beauty of markings and colors of horses in life and art.



Enthusiastically welcome students to the farm and advise them of all safety rules and expectations for behavior around the horses.

Gather students around in a hay bale circle or riding ring to look at Xu Beihong's (Shoo Bay-hung) painting "Horses." It's best to have a larger image of this painting displayed on an easel or tacked to a wall, but individual copies will work as well. (You can download this image from <http://www.webetc.info/art/Xu-Beihong-horses.html>)





The beauty, energy, and power of horses have inspired many artists over centuries, throughout the world. Guide students on a “Horse Hue” tour of the farm. Take along a stack of card sized (3”x3”) paint chips from a local home improvement store. Tell the story of the farm as you go and when you encounter horses - bring out the paint chips and invite students to try to match the paint chip to the horse.

Read the paint names from the card that most closely matches the horse color - have a laugh if you need to! Then explain that horse colors have different names and replace the house paint name with the proper equine term. Write it on the color chip in black marker. Horse colors may include grey, chestnut, sorrel, buckskin, palomino, brown, bay, and black.

In addition to color, many horses also display unique patterns. Are there horses on the farm that display coat patterns, mottled skin, manes and tail colors different from coat color? Give each student a clipboard with paper attached and a set of earth (horse) toned crayons in a plastic baggie.

Send them out to sketch and color a horse !



Bring students back together at the hay bale or riding ring circle with their artwork.

Attach the labeled horse color paint chips to the easel legs that holds the painting by Xu Bailong. If you are not using an easel, clothespin the paint chips to a line. Hang copies of the painting on the line near the paint chips. Note that besides coat color, the artist included some interesting markings and color combinations on the horses in the painting.

Do any of the artist’s three horses display markings? Yes! The solid black horse appears to have a white stripe that extends from atop the eyes to the muzzle. Did any of the students sketch and color a horse with a stripe?

Do any of the horses in Baihong's painting display manes and tails that are different from their coat color? Yes! A Palomino can be a pale horse or light tan with mane and tail almost white, flaxen, or blonde. A Buckskin coat color may be a deep tan or almost white, but its tail and mane will be black. Its lower legs are usually black and look like socks. Which horse is the Palomino and which is the Buckskin?

Did any of the student artists sketch a horse with manes and tails that are different from the coat color? How about socks? Or stockings? Hold up student artworks that show these variations.

Travel around the circle and ask each student to name the coat color (using the paint chip cards attached to easel for help) of their horse. Point out other unique markings and name them.

Star: White mark on the forehead, not extending below the eyes

Stripe: White mark from eye-level to the top of the nostril

Snip: White mark on the end of the muzzle

Blaze: Star, stripe, snip all connected

Bald: White extends from eye to eye

Sock: White or black not extending above the fetlock joint

Stocking: White or black from the hock down

String a clothesline or twine along a wall and ask students who wish to share their work with others clip their drawings to the line. Allow time for students to admire the gallery.



Add to the art show with a collection of prints! Have a selection of 6-8 laminated art posters to hang with student help. This can be especially fun if the art show is strung in the stables area so that the horses can be observed as well! Invite students to quietly walk through the art show and look closely at the prints and student artwork. Can they identify markings and coat colors? Offer compliments and model how to offer a critique.



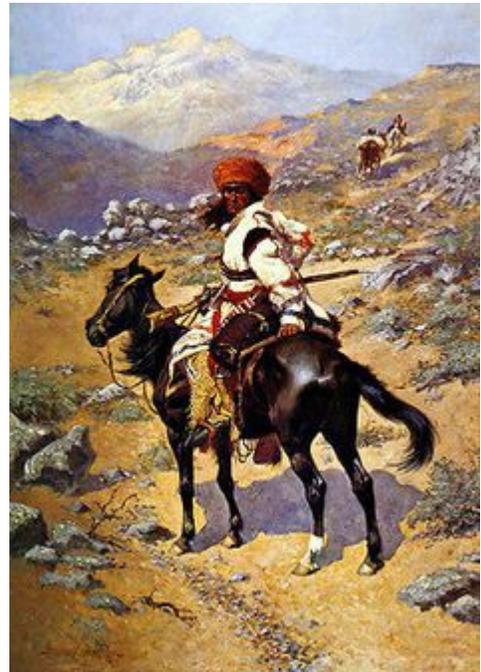
Red Horses by Franz Marc



Whistlejacket by George Stubbs



Race on the Snow by Leonid Afremov



Indian Trapper by F. Remington



Horses in a Meadow by Edgar Degas



Count off students by three or four. Hand each group a clipboard with a Horse Color and Pattern Outline Sheet (see below), a plastic baggie of horse-hued crayons, and a 3” x 5” task card with a name of a horse coat color and set of markings.

Give the class fifteen minutes to observe live horses and the artworks that will help them create the horse on their sheet. When complete, each group will read their card and share their work with the group

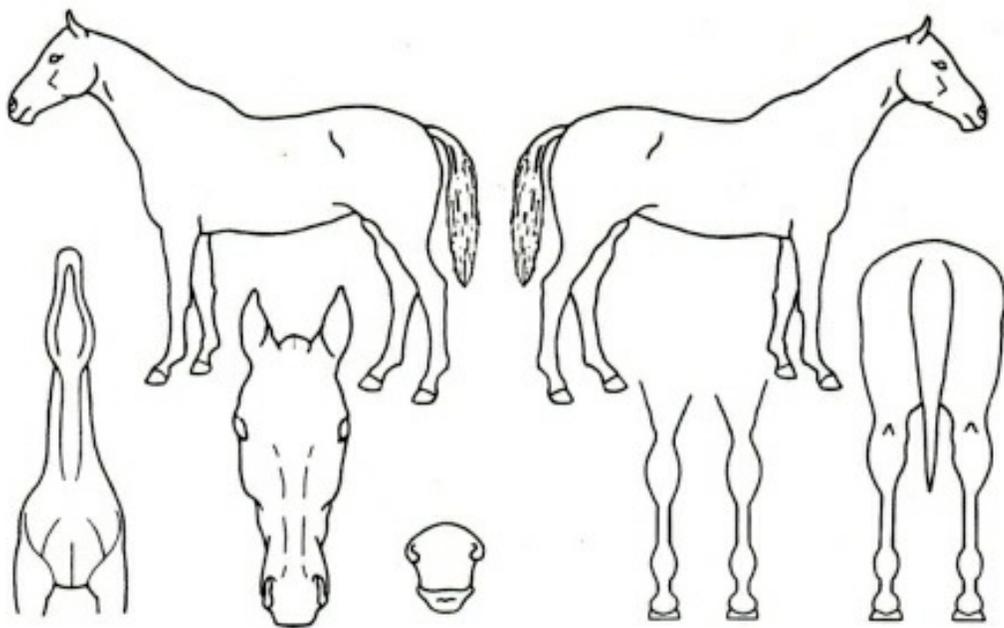


Image adapted from UK Horse Passport

To thank students for their great work, give each student a coloring sheet that includes horses and scenes from your farm. Make sure you include your farm’s logo and contact information.