

# HORSE POWER

## EDUCATOR GUIDE

### ACTIVITY: Saddle Up & Match



# ACTIVITY: Saddle Up & Match

## FROM THE FILM:

In the film we are introduced to six different types of horses, the Mongolian horse, the Mustang, the Dutch Warmblood, the American Miniature, the Arabian horse, and the wild Przewalski's horse, all of which are unique in their own way. The film displays their varying abilities and how they remain important in our world.

### ACTIVITY OVERVIEW:

Students will apply their knowledge of the six different horses featured in the film Horse Power to this activity by reading the clues and trying to guess which characteristics match with which horse (the Mongolian horse, the Mustang horse, the Dutch Warmblood, the American Miniature , the Arabian horse, and Przewalski's horse).

### MATERIALS

- Printed copies of the Horse Power – Saddle Up and Match pages
- Pencils or pens
- Optional: video resources (access to YouTube and a projector)

### EDUCATOR PREP

- Print out copies of the Horse Power – Saddle Up and Match pages
- Gather pencils for each student

**\*If this is a pop-up theater activity, optional to laminate the Saddle Up and Match pages, cut out the provided labels of each horse breed, and use sticky tack to easily stick the labels on and off the horse images, allowing multiple kids to try and match them correctly.**



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01

Begin by discussing with the class what they remember about the five horse breeds and the wild Przewalski horse shown in the film. Additionally, explain to the class how horses are measured: Horses are measured using one “hand” which is equal to 4 inches or just over 10cm. They are measured from the highest point of their withers (highest point where their neck meets their back) down to the ground, and this method was used because it was the most simple method available before uniform measuring tools became readily available worldwide.

02

Optional short video (2 minutes) explaining [\*\*Why Are Horses Measured in Hands?\*\*](#)

## 03 Key Features About Each Horse

**Mongolian Horse** (12-14 hands) - Mongolian horses have short but strong legs with thick coats of long thick hair, all of which contribute to their inherent hardiness, self-sufficiency and endurance. Fun fact, in the 13th century these horses were vital for Emperor Genghis Khan’s military conquests and intricate postal system which spanned the vast Mongol Empire, facilitating trading and exchanging correspondences much faster than ever before.

**Mustang** (14-15 hands) - Mustangs have a narrow but deep chest allowing for extra lung space, flat to slightly convex profile, well-defined neck, durable hooves, sloping shoulders which all contribute to their stamina and agility in the wild. They roam free in the Western United States and are protected by federal law.

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## 03 Cont'd Key Features

**Arabian Horse** (14-15 hands tall) - Arabians are lithe and compact, making them even lighter and more athletic than many other breeds. They are able to reach speeds of over 60 km/h making them excellent race horses. They have a refined and wedge-shape head that improves airflow to their nasal passages, making breathing more efficient and their lungs are 10 times the size of humans.

**Dutch Warmblood** (15-17 hands tall) - These large horses are well-proportioned with a deep chest, muscular neck and powerful legs allowing them to have a balance between agility, strength and speed. As a result they excel in jumping and dressage and are also used as police horses.

**American Miniature** (8.5 hands tall) - These small horses (also known as ponies) have a small and muscular build, being 8.5 hands tall, with thick coats and copious manes and tails. Many are pets or therapy horses and are not ridden.

**Przewalski's Horse** (12-14 hands tall) - Przewalski's horse are the only true wild horse species left in the world that have never been domesticated. They once went extinct in the wild in the 1960s, but are now are now protected and being reintroduced to several regions of their ancient range. They derive from a different lineage than the modern domesticated horse with 66 chromosomes rather than 64. They are stocky, short, and pot-bellied with a spiky mane and striped legs. They have a pony-like head which is large in comparison to their body and they grow thick coats needed to stay warm and survive in the winter.

## 04

Optional short video: To further explore some of these breeds, watch this short video about Przewalski's horse [Przewalski's Horse \(last wild horse\)](#)

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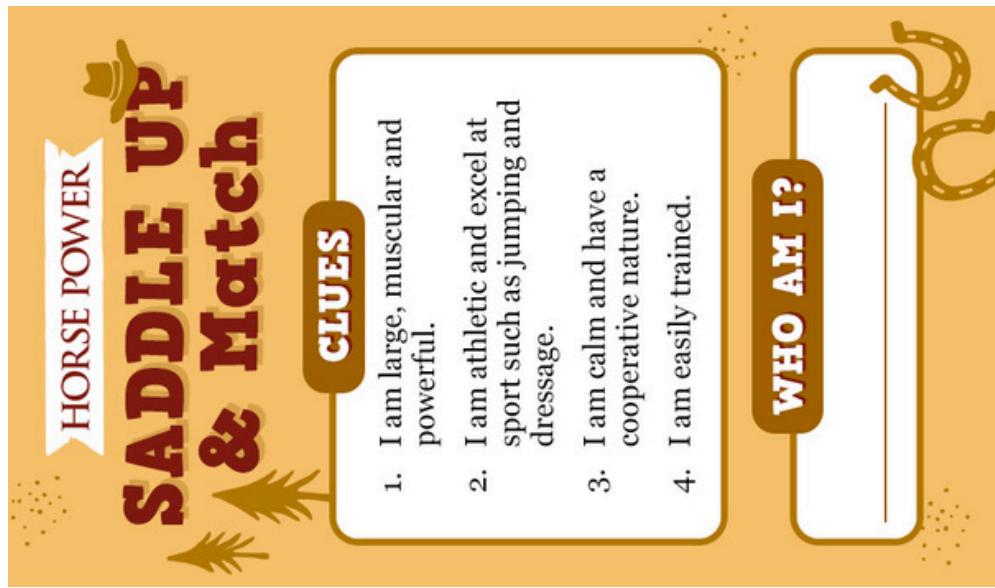
**05** Pass out the copies of the Horse Power–Saddle Up and Match pages and have students work in pairs or small groups to try and guess the horse that matches to the hints they are given.

**06** Finish the activity by discussing what the students learned about each horse and the importance of various features.

**What did you learn that surprised you about a horse?** Answers can vary: surprised by the lung size of the Arabian horse, surprised by how Przewalski's horses look so much different in contrast to the others, surprised that horses can be used in therapy, etc.

**Which horse is your favorite and why?** Encourage personal responses.

**What did you notice that is different about certain horses like the Mustang in comparison to Przewalski's horse?** Przewalski's horse is from a different species and lineage of horses, it is smaller and pot-bellied and closely resembles the wild horses that existed before domestication. The Mustang is larger at 14-15 hands and although they descended from domesticated horses that were brought over from Spain hundreds of years ago, they are now classified as wild horses.



**HORSE POWER**

# SADDLE UP & Match

**CLUES**

1. I am stocky and short, being 12–14 hands tall.
2. I have great stamina and endurance to gallop non-stop for up to 10km.
3. I participate in the Naadam festival, where young children act as jockeys in a race.
4. I am an essential part of the nomadic lifestyle.

**WHO AM I?**



**HORSE POWER**

# SADDLE UP & Match

**CLUES**

1. I have a pot belly and pony shaped head.
2. My home is the steppes of Central Asia.
3. I am hardy, growing thick coats for the winter.
4. I am the last true wild horse species.

**WHO AM I?**



**HORSE POWER**

# SADDLE UP & Match

**CLUES**

1. I roam the Western United States.
2. I am a wild horse.
3. I live in a herd made up of a stallion, several mares and their young foals.
4. I am extremely loyal to my family.

**WHO AM I?**



HORSE POWER  
**SADDLE UP**  
**& Match**

Przewalski's Horse



HORSE POWER  
**SADDLE UP**  
**& Match**

Mustang



HORSE POWER  
**SADDLE UP**  
**& Match**



Mongolian Horse

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**& Match**

Dutch Warmblood

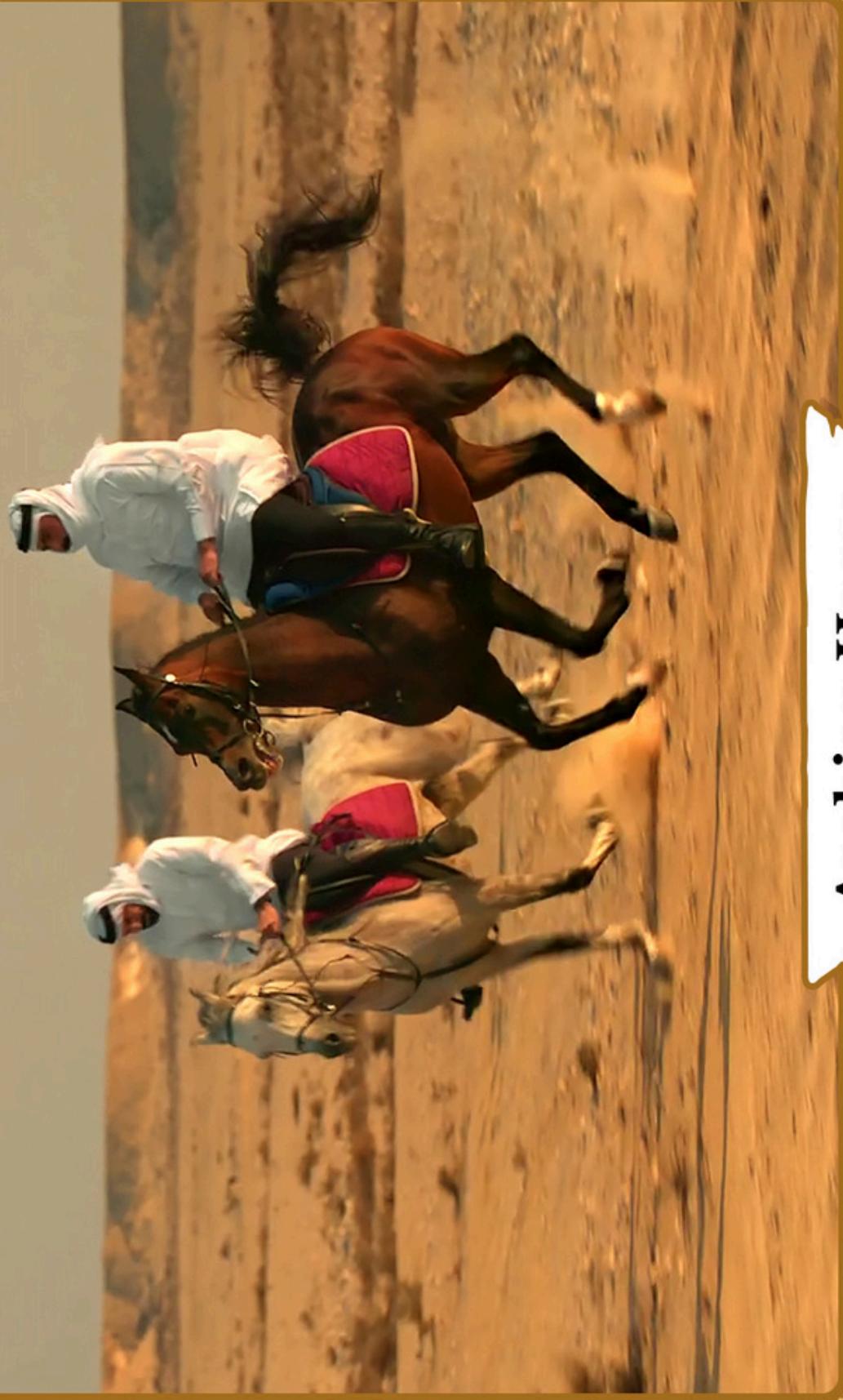


HORSE POWER  
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American Miniature



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Arabian Horse