

HORSE POWER

EDUCATOR GUIDE

ACTIVITY: Wild Horse Behavior Field Journal



ACTIVITY 3: Wild Horse Behavior Field Journal

From the Film:

In the beginning of the film, we meet wild stallion Rudy and his six member family, including mares, teenagers and a young baby horse, also called a foal! Rudy and his family are like every other family: they love each other, they protect each, relying on their close family bonds. We see their love and their loyalty is key to survival. But when we meet Zorro, a nearby bachelor stallion, we see the lengths Rudy will go to protect his family.

Activity Overview:

In this activity, students will learn about the wild horse behaviors highlighted in the documentary. They will watch videos and record what they see in their field journals.

Through this they will learn to recognize patterns in how different band members interact with each other and learn about the important role of each wild horse.

MATERIALS LIST

- Printed field journal observation sheets (one per student or group)
- Pencils and erasers
- Colored pencils or crayons (optional, for sketching)
- Video clips queued and ready to play
- Projector or large screen



Videos

Footage of horses interacting

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZ110iPsJnI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L4n7WBitHRs>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3caazC42IU>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mism29TOkWw>
- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bMB3_fEUb8
- https://youtu.be/1y49T_8WU9c

Introduction (5 min)

Start with a short talk on different wild horse behaviors they saw in the film and will see in the videos. Explain that students will watch clips multiple times and record observations with tallies, sketches and notes throughout the clips.

Key Behaviors to Reinforce

- Grazing – eating grass, the main thing horses do all day
- Grooming – horses gently nibbling or scratching each other (shows friendship!)
- Playing – foals running, bucking, and playing together (practicing for when they're grown)
- Alert/Watching – standing very still with ears forward, watching for danger
- Fighting/Protecting – stallions rearing up, pushing, or chasing to protect their family
- Resting – standing quietly together or lying down
- Drinking water

For each of 6 video clips:

- Play clip once without recording (preview watch)
- Play clip 1-2 more times while students record observations, allowing time for students to finish notes and sketches.
- Move to next clip



VIDEO ONE

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?

VIDEO TWO

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?

VIDEO THREE

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?

VIDEO FOUR

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?

VIDEO FIVE

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?

VIDEO SIX

What Behaviors Did You See?

Check all you saw

Grazing Grooming Playing Alert/Watching
 Fighting/ Protecting Resting Drinking

Draw What You Saw

Notes and Observations

What were the horses doing? Who was interacting with who?

What do these behaviors tell you about how wild horses live together?
