



Queen Creek 4-H Horse Project

Proficiency Test Study Guide

OVERVIEW

Introduction This study guide is intended to prepare the horse project member for his/her written proficiency test. Major areas to be covered are:

1	Color and Color Markings
2	Breeds of Horses
3	General Horse Care
4	Tack and Equipment
5	General Terms and Definitions

In addition, there are diagrams requiring the member to label and identify the following:

1	Parts of the Horse
2	Parts of the Bridle (Western and English)
3	Parts of the Saddle (Western and English)
4	Identify Face and Leg Markings



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COLOR AND COLOR MARKINGS

Introduction The color and color markings section will cover the basic coat colors, head and face markings as well as leg markings.

Basic Coat Colors Listed below are the basic coat colors and their variations.

Basic:	Black	Bay	Chestnut (sorrel)
	Brown	White	
Variations:	Gray	Dun or buckskin	Palomino
	Roan		

Color	Description
Basic: Black	Skin, hooves and eyes are generally black. Tan or brown hairs on the muzzle or flank indicate the horse is not a true black but a seal brown.
Basic: Bay	Coat is a mixture of red and yellow. Lighter bays show more yellow, darker bay more red. Bays always have black "points". They may also have white markings on their legs.
Basic: Chestnut (sorrel)	Basically, a red horse. Unlike the bay, the points are the same color as the horse. Mane and tail may be lighter (flaxen).
Basic: Brown	Many horses that you may call "black" are actually brown horses. They have darker skin, but hair around muzzle and lips is brown.
Basic: White	Snow white hair, pink skin, brown eyes. Unlike a gray horse, this horse is born pure white and stays white throughout its life.
Variation: Gray	Usually born a solid dark color, possibly with a few white hairs mixed in. As the horse gets older, more white hairs appear in the coat. Usually muzzle, tips of ears, around the eyes stay darker as the horse lightens in color.
Variation: Dun or buckskin	Basic coat color is a brownish-yellow tone, points generally darker. Duns may have a dorsal stripe down their backs.
Variation: Palomino	Golden color varying from bright copper to light yellow, white (flaxen) mane and tail.
Variation: Roan	Coat of a roan horse carries white hairs mixed with one or more base colors.

Notes: A. "points" refers to the mane, tail and lower portion of the legs.
B. Paints, Pintos and Appaloosa's are actually "patterns" rather than a basic color.

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COLOR AND COLOR MARKINGS (cont'd)

Head/Face Markings There are five basic head and face markings. These markings may vary in size and shape.

Type	Description
Star	Small, clearly defined area of white hairs on the forehead
Snip	A small patch of white which runs over the muzzle, often to the lips
Stripe (strip)	Long narrow band of white that runs from the forehead down toward the muzzle
Blaze	A wide stripe down the face
Bald Face	Wider than a blaze, white will extend over at least one eye

Leg Markings There are five basic leg markings.

Type	Description
Coronet	A white strip covering the coronet band
Pastern	White extends from the coronet up to and including the pastern
Ankle	White extends from the coronet up to and including the fetlock
Half stocking	White extends from the coronet to the middle of the cannon
Full stocking	White extends from the coronet to and including the knee or hock

Points Black points indicate a dark mane and tail on a lighter or red (bay) horse, while white points or light points refer to lighter mane and tail on a darker horse.

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BREEDS OF HORSES

Breed vs. Registry The “breed” of a horse refers to a certain bloodline of the animal. A “registry” is an organization that registers or assigns a unique number to the horse. There are breed registries; Arabian, and there are color registries; Palomino.

Breeds There are hundreds of breeds of horses. Listed below are a few of the more popular or most common breeds and their characteristics.

Breed	Avg. Height/ Body Type	Origin	Characteristics
American Paint Horse	14.2 to 16.2 hands Light	United States	Known for it's two-toned coat pattern. Only spotted horses with Paint, QH, or Thoroughbred bloodlines can be registered. Used as stock, pleasure, racing, and show horses. Color patterns include Tobiano, Overo, Tovero.
Appaloosa	14.2 to 15 ½ hands Light	United States	Developed for war and hunting by the Nez Perce Indians. Know for unique coat pattern of blanket, amrble, snowflake, leopard or frost. Also have striped hooves, white sclera by eyes and mottled skin.
Arabian	14.2 to 15.2 hands Light	Arabia	Oldest and purest of all horse breeds. Arabians have a high tail carriage, dished face, long arched neck and short back.
Belgian	15.2 to 17 hands Draft	Belgian	Developed as an agricultural workhorse. Coat color usually chestnut or sorrel with flaxen mane and tale. They are the widest, deepest, most compact and massive of the draft breeds. Quite & docile.
Clydesdale	16 to 17 hands Draft	Scotland	Generally bay or brown with white markings. Lower legs are extremely feathery. They have an elegant carriage, lots of action.
Donkey	36 to 48 inches Small	Egypt	Donkey's have white muzzles and underbelly; dorsal stripes, stripes on their legs and long, dark ears.
Friesian	15 to 16 hands Light	Netherlands	Very old breed, Middle Ages. Can carry a heavy load under saddle, flashy trot, great carriage horse. Never trim their mane or tail! Lots of leg feathers. Black with an occasional star on the forehead. Was nearly extinct prior to World War I.

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BREEDS OF HORSES (cont'd)

Breed	Avg. Height/ Body Type	Origin	Characteristics
Miniature Horse	34 inches max. Small	Northern Europe	Originally used to pull carts in the coal mines. They are NOT a pony, they are a full grown horse. There are two types: Arabian (very refined), and Quarter Horse (heavier)
Morgan	14.2 to 16 hands Light	United States	Known for their pleasing temperament, docility, endurance, beauty, courage and longevity.
Mule	12 to 17.2 hands Body type depends upon the horse half (i.e quarter horse vs. draft horse)	Middle East	Cross between a jack and a horse. Sizes vary depending on horse half. Mules are sterile. They are used for pack animals, driving, riding and showing. They are very strong, intelligent, surefooted, careful and stubborn.
Percheron	16.1 to 16.3 hands Draft	France	Used for battle, farming, pulling stage coaches and pleasure riding. Usually black or dapple-gray. No feathering on the legs.
Quarter Horse	15 to 16 hands Light	United States	Got it's name for it's quarter-mile racing speed. Powerfully built with strong hindquarters, agile and quick on their feet.
Shetland Pony	43 to 46 inches Small	Shetland Islands, Scotland	Shetland ponies are very strong and hardy for their size. They are gentle, faithful natured, great for children.
American Saddlebred	15 to 16 hands Light	United States	Three or five gaited horses carry their tail and head high, moving with much action and high stepping. Docile and intelligent with high endurance. Used for pleasure, stock and harness.
Standardbred	15 to 16 hands Light	Eastern United States	Developed for road driving and racing they are known as trotters and pacers. Used for harness racing and shows.
Thoroughbred	15 to 17 hands Light	England	Developed specifically for racing. Thoroughbreds are the fastest in the world. They tend to be very active, energetic and highly nervous.
Trakehner	16 to 17 hands Large	East Prussia	Trakehner's excel at Dressage because of their elegant way of moving. Very good jumpers, too.
Welsh Pony	48 inches and under; 48 to 56 inches Small	Wales	Welsh ponies are classified according to height. They have unusual endurance and considerable speed at the trot. Advanced children's mount.

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GENERAL HORSE CARE

Introduction In this section, we will cover the areas of:

1	How to keep your horse healthy and happy
2	Signs of a healthy horse
3	Signs of a sick horse
4	How to prepare your horse for a ride
5	After a ride

How to Keep Your Horse Healthy and Happy

The following areas are the basics for keeping your horse healthy and happy. Each item is explained more thoroughly below.

- ✓ Nutrients
 - ✓ Feed
 - ✓ Deworming
 - ✓ Vaccinations
 - ✓ Teeth
 - ✓ Hooves
 - ✓ Grooming
 - ✓ External Parasites
 - ✓ Stable and Turnout Area
-

Nutrients

Your horse needs SIX nutrients to survive.

- ✓ Water
 - Carries other substances around the body
 - Helps rid the horse of “waste” products
 - Helps to regulate body temperature (sweating)
 - ✓ Energy nutrients include both Carbohydrates & Fats
 - Furnish energy for moving, growing and generating heat
 - Fats are used to store energy
 - ✓ Proteins
 - Used to build parts of the animal’s body; muscle or skin
 - ✓ Minerals
 - Make the skeleton strong
 - Help regulate movement of water in the body
 - ✓ Vitamins
 - Needed in small amounts in the diet
 - Catalyze (start) necessary chemical reactions in the body
-



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GENERAL HORSE CARE (cont'd)

Feed Quality feed should provide the carbohydrates, fats, proteins, minerals and vitamins your horse needs to survive. Your horses diet should come from 2/3 roughage and 1/3 concentrates (note: mixed feed included in concentrates).

- ✓ Roughage
 - Hay (alfalfa and/or grass)
 - Pasture grass
 - ✓ Concentrates
 - Grains (oats, barley, corn and/or "sweet feed")
 - Supplements
-

Deworming Horses are grazers. They eat from the ground; consequently, they can pick up parasites with their food (internal parasites). Be sure your horse is on a regular deworming schedule by using one of the following methods.

- ✓ Deworming shot
 - ✓ Tube or oral paste every 6-8 weeks
 - ✓ Daily supplement
-

Vaccinations Immunize your horse against common diseases.

Teeth Periodically check your horse's teeth. If sharp points or uneven areas appear, these can be filed ("floated") by a qualified equine dentist or veterinarian.

Hooves A horse's rate of hoof growth can differ. On average every six to eight weeks your horse's hooves need to be trimmed or shod.

Grooming Keep your horse brushed and clean. This will make them feel good and, also, you will be able to catch any signs of illness if you are spending time with them.

External Parasites Keep horse sprayed with fly spray, comb bots (fly eggs) out of their coat, check their ears, eyes for signs of external parasites.

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GENERAL HORSE CARE (cont'd)

Stable and Turnout Area Be sure to keep your horse's stall and turnout areas clean and free from excess manure.

Signs of a Healthy Horse The signs of a healthy horse are:

- ✓ Heart Rate (pulse) – 45-60 beats per minute
- ✓ Respiration – 8-15 beats per minute
- ✓ Temperature – 100 -101.5F (foals slightly higher than mature horses)
- ✓ Clear and bright eyes
- ✓ Horse is alert and attentive, not nervous
- ✓ Coat is shiny
- ✓ No signs of abnormal behavior (see Signs of a Sick Horse)
- ✓ Appetite is normal

Signs of a Sick Horse The signs of a sick horse are:

✓ Loss of appetite	✓ Weight Loss
✓ Decreased energy, stamina	✓ Coughing
✓ Diarrhea	✓ Fever
✓ Increased heart rate	✓ Increased respiratory rate
✓ Nose running with yellowish (unclear) mucous	✓ Eyes running
✓ Horse is listless	✓ Stilted movements, limping
	✓ Changes in mannerisms*

Be sure to contact your veterinarian as needed.

*(i.e. rolling, looking or kicking at belly, swinging head side-to-side)

Preparing for a Ride How to prepare your horse for a ride:

STEP	ACTION
1	Check for any signs of an unhealthy horse. NOTE: Don't ride your horse if he's sick!
2	Groom entire horse, pick hooves
3	Fly spray as needed
4	Saddle and bridle – be sure to check all equipment for wear and tear before tacking!
5	Don't forget your helmet, and
6	NEVER RIDE ALONE!

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GENERAL HORSE CARE (cont'd)

After a Ride What you need to do after a ride:

STEP	ACTION
1	Remove tack quickly - put aside to clean as needed
2	If horse is "hot" to the touch, allow only a sip of water
3	Cool out horse as needed
4	If possible, rinse the horse to free him from the sweat and grime. Sponge the horses eyes, nostrils, lips and dock. If not possible, sponge down the sweat spots and rub briskly with a cloth to dry
5	Walk the horse out until he stops sweating and begins to feel "cool" to the touch
6	If cool/cold outside, blanket the horse while you walk him out
7	Once dry, curry and brush the horse to remove any final sweat or grime
8	Pick hooves clean of dirt and rocks
9	Once horse is cooled down, allow him to have water
10	If the horse has had a strenuous workout, wait a while before feeding



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TACK AND EQUIPMENT

Introduction "Tack" is used to refer to any and all equipment used for horseback riding and driving. You will learn to identify parts of the saddle and bridle as well as various other pieces of equipment.

Basic Equipment What you need to groom your horse:

<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Used for...</i>
Stiff Brush	Body
Soft Brush	Fine dust and dirt particles and for face
Rubber Currycomb	Daily grooming, circular motion.
Metal Currycomb	Use metal in shedding season. Be careful with sensitive skinned horses.
Cloths/Rags	Wipe around eyes, nose, ears, lips, dock and sheath – all sensitive areas.
Hoof Pick	Cleaning hooves

Note: It's best to use your fingers to detangle the mane and tail. You are less likely to damage the hair.

Additional Equipment & Supplies If you plan on showing your horse, additional items such as:

- Hoof Polish
- Show Sheen
- Whitening Shampoo
- Vaseline
- Shampoo
- Clippers & Oil
- Baby Powder
- Conditioner
- Sandpaper

General Care Most tack is made of leather. Leather is perishable (meaning, it does not last forever!), yet you can take care of it to ensure a long and useful life.

- ✓ After each use, sponge the equipment to remove dirt and sweat.
 - ✓ Clean monthly with saddle soap, leather oil, or other commercial products.
 - ✓ Leather softeners are useful to keep leather pliable.
 - ✓ Store in dry area with plenty of air circulation.
 - ✓ Heat will dry leather out.
-

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TACK AND EQUIPMENT (cont'd)

**Safety
Check**

Check each piece of tack carefully; study it for strength and pliability. Pay particular attention to areas around buckles, bends and attachments. Check for any signs of weakness in the leather.

Stiff or dried out leather will crack and is very brittle. Thin areas in the leather show that the leather is worn and is not as strong as it should be. Leather will rip or tear around the tongue of buckles, in folds, and anywhere particular stress is placed. The thread used to sew the tack together can dry out as well.

Conclusion

Regular cleaning will add to the use and life of your tack. Keeping your equipment clean will help to keep you safe by catching any worn or weak areas.



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GENERAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

General Terms

Equitation	The art of riding a horse.
Farrier	A person who works with the horses feet and legs, also called a “horse-shoer”.
Hand	Refers to the height measurement of a horse. Each “hand” is 4 inches, so a horse that stands 15.2 hands is 62 inches tall. Horses are measured in “hands”, while most pony breeds are measured in inches.
Horsemanship	The art of riding a horse and understanding its needs.
Near-side	The left side of the horse. Horses are usually mounted from this side.
Off-side	The right side of the horse.

Terms for Gender and Age

Colt	Male, uncastrated horse, under three years of age.
Filly	Female, maiden horse, under three years of age.
Foal	Baby horse of any gender, under one year of age.
Gelding	Castrated male horse.
Mare	Female horse over three years of age, or a female horse that has had a foal.
Stallion	Uncastrated male horse over three years of age.
Suckling	Baby horse that is nursing on its mother (dam).
Weanling	Baby horse that is no longer nursing on its mother (dam).

NOTE: Horses are considered one year older on January 1st of each year, even if they were born in December.

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GENERAL TERMS AND DEFINITIONS (cont'd)

Terms Applying To Movement

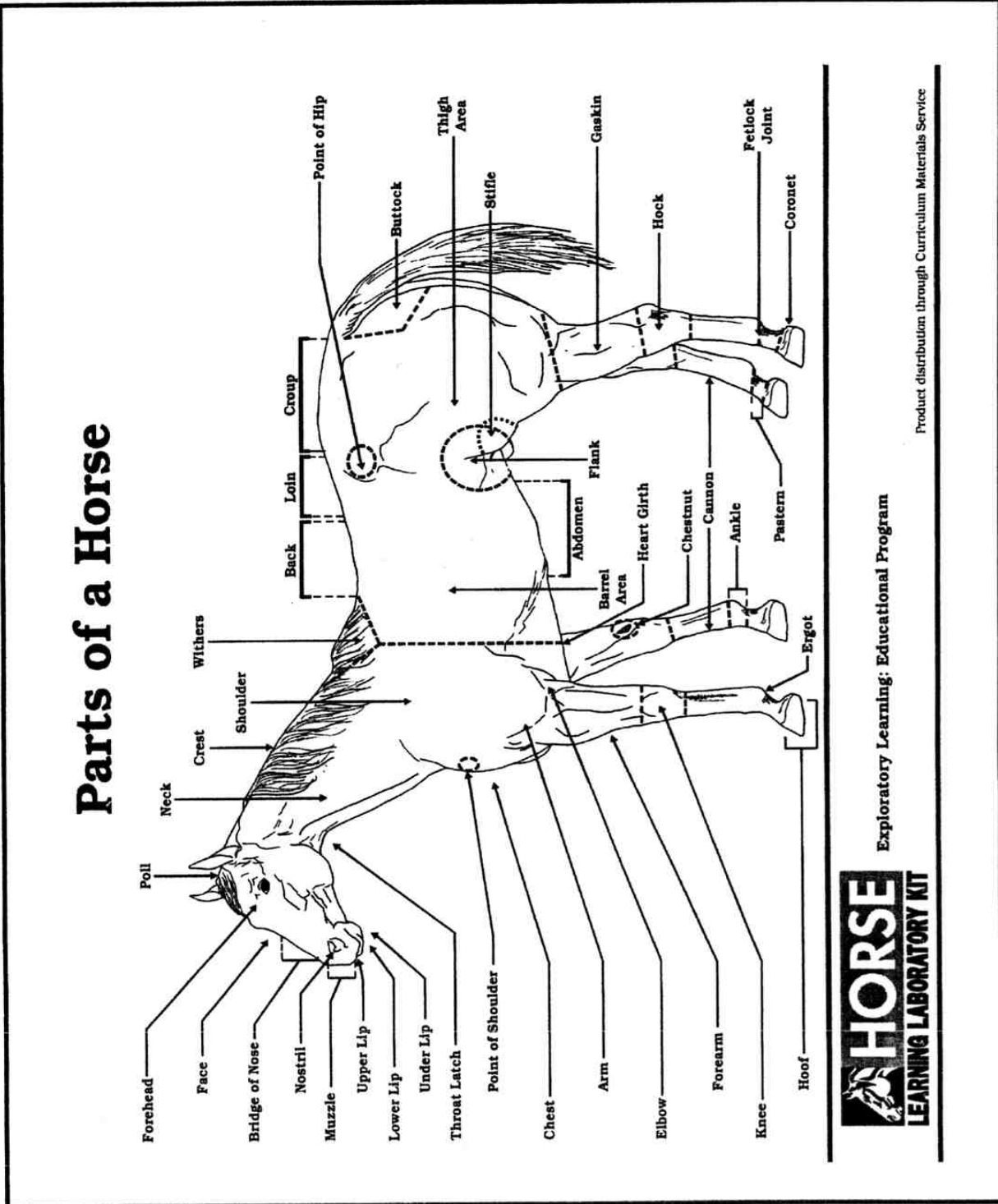
Canter	English term for a rhythmical, three beat gait. The horse will start with one hind foot striking the ground, and then the other hind foot strikes the ground at the same time as the opposite front foot, with the remaining front foot striking the ground last.
Diagonal	The forefoot on one side moves with the opposite hind foot while jogging or trotting.
Gait	Term referring to the horse's way of moving: walk, trot or lope.
Jog	Western term for a two beat, diagonal gait. The horse moves very slowly, almost shuffling. The forefoot on one side moves with the opposite hind foot.
Lead	During a canter or lope, the front foot that moves independently of the other three is said to be the "lead".
Lope	Western term for a rhythmical, three beat gait. The horse will start with one hind foot striking the ground, and then the other hind foot strikes the ground at the same time as the opposite front foot, with the remaining front foot striking the ground last.
Pace	A two beat, lateral gait. The forefoot and hind foot on the same side of the horse's body strike the ground together. The horse is moving in almost a "swinging" motion.
Trot	English term for a two beat, diagonal gait. The trot is a faster version of the Western Jog. The forefoot on one side moves with the opposite hind foot.
Walk	A slow, flatfooted, four beat gait. Each foot moves and strikes the ground independently of the other three feet.

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Anatomy

Use this poster in conjunction with Anatomy - Match the correct part names with their locations on the diagram situation/task statement and/or Parts of a Horse identification tags.



Parts of a Horse



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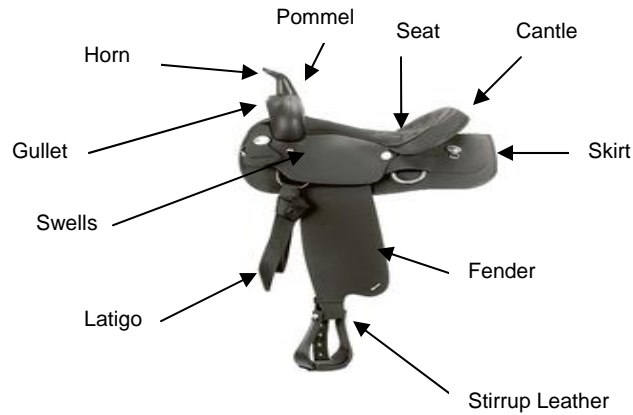
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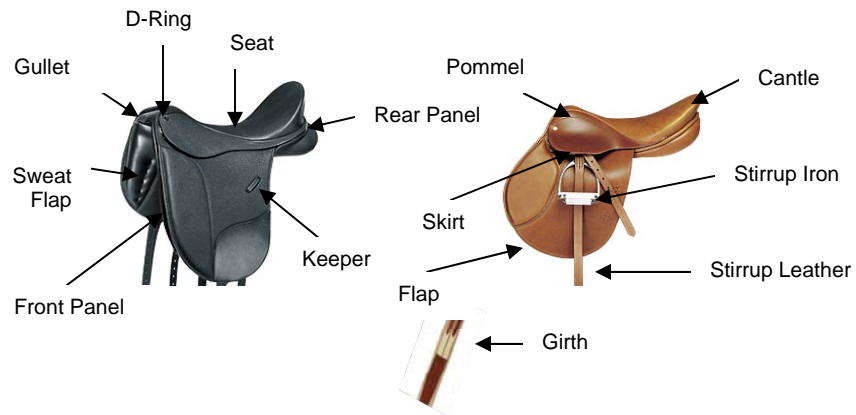
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PARTS OF THE SADDLE (Western and English)

Western The picture below reflects the parts of the Western saddle.



English The pictures below reflect the parts of the English saddle.

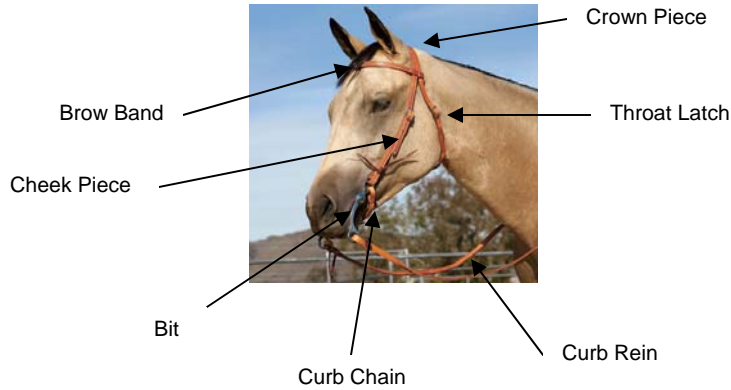


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PARTS OF THE BRIDLE (Western and English)

Western The pictures below reflect the parts of the Western bridle.



Bosal with Mecate reins



Hackamore "bit"



D-ring Snaffle

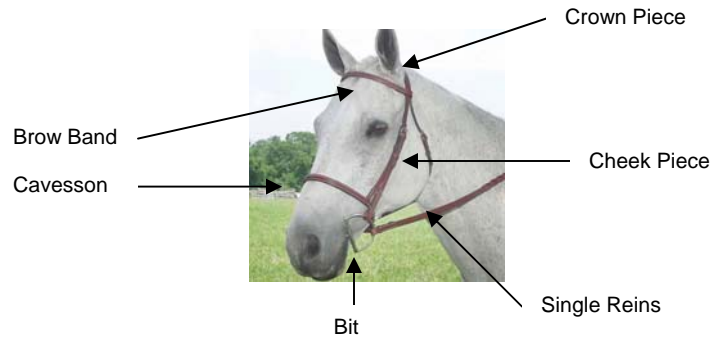


Curb - low port



Curb - high port

English The picture below reflects the parts of the English bridle.



Dressage Bridle Double Reins



O-Ring Snaffle



Broken Kimberwick



Ported Kimberwick



Snaffle Pelham



Ported Pelham

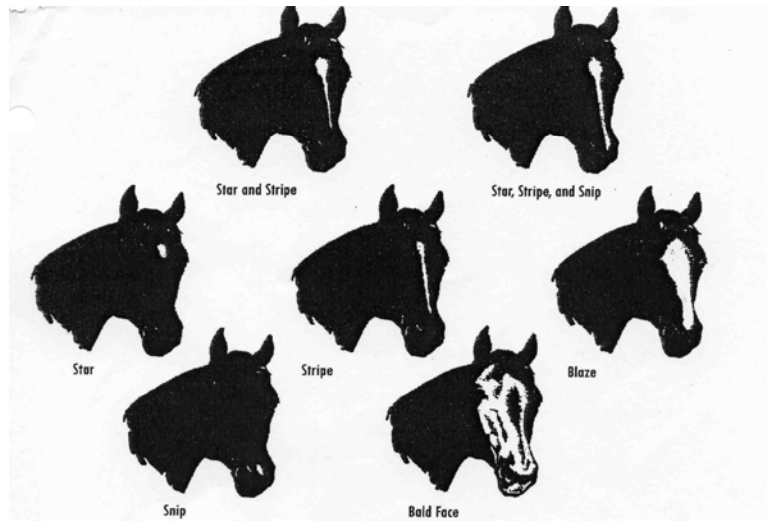
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IDENTIFY FACE AND LEG MARKINGS

Face Markings

The diagram below shows all five face markings and a couple combination markings.



Leg Markings

The diagram below shows all five leg markings.

