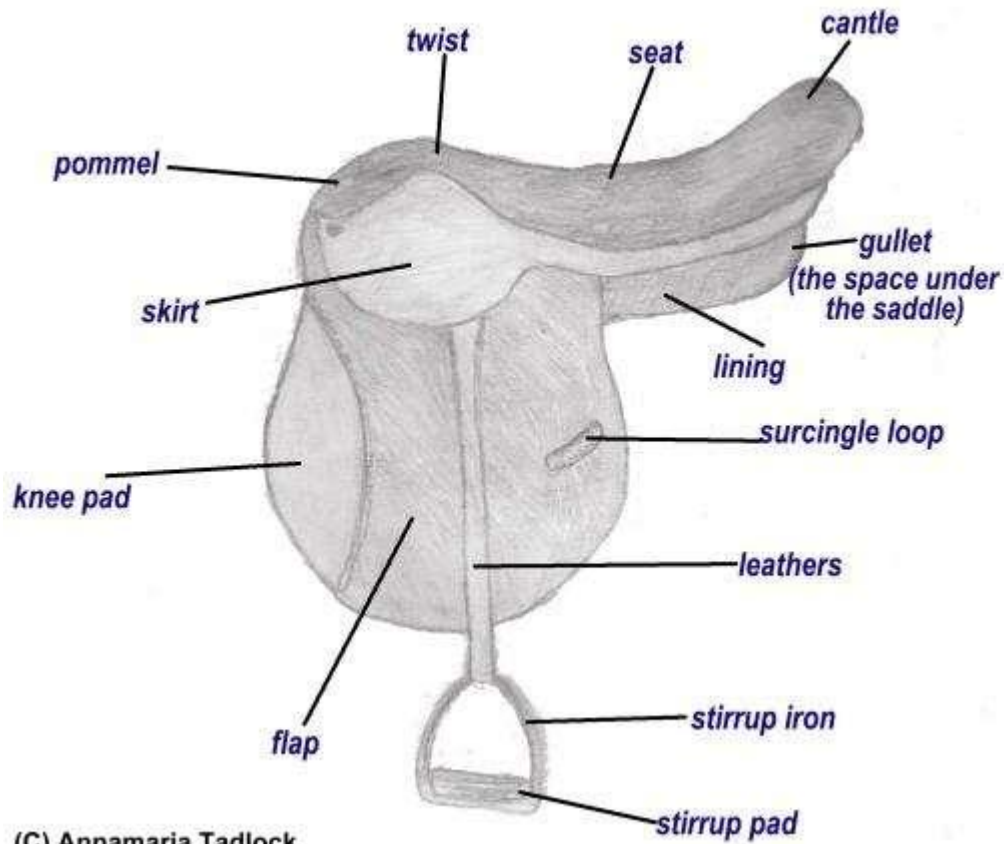


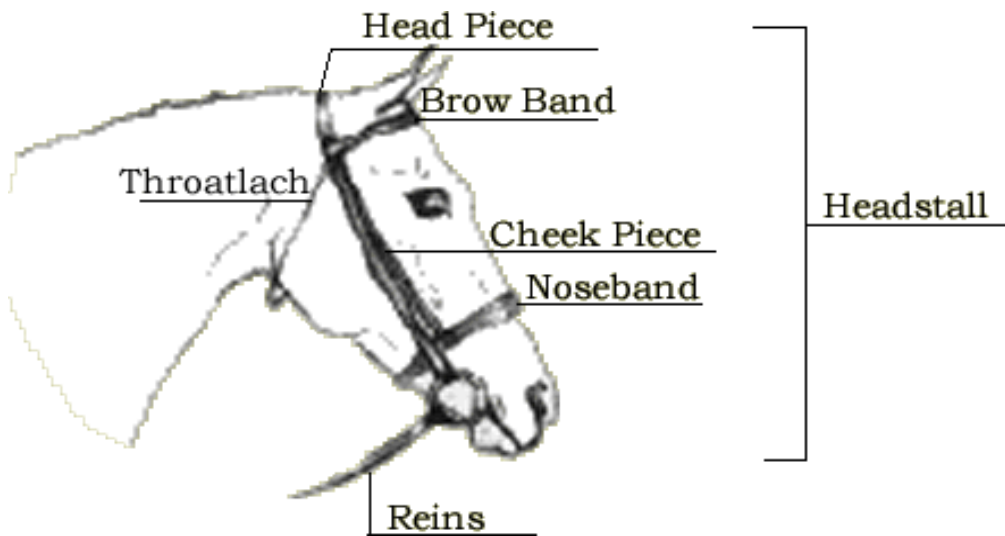
4-H First Star

1. Name all Parts of Saddle and Bridle



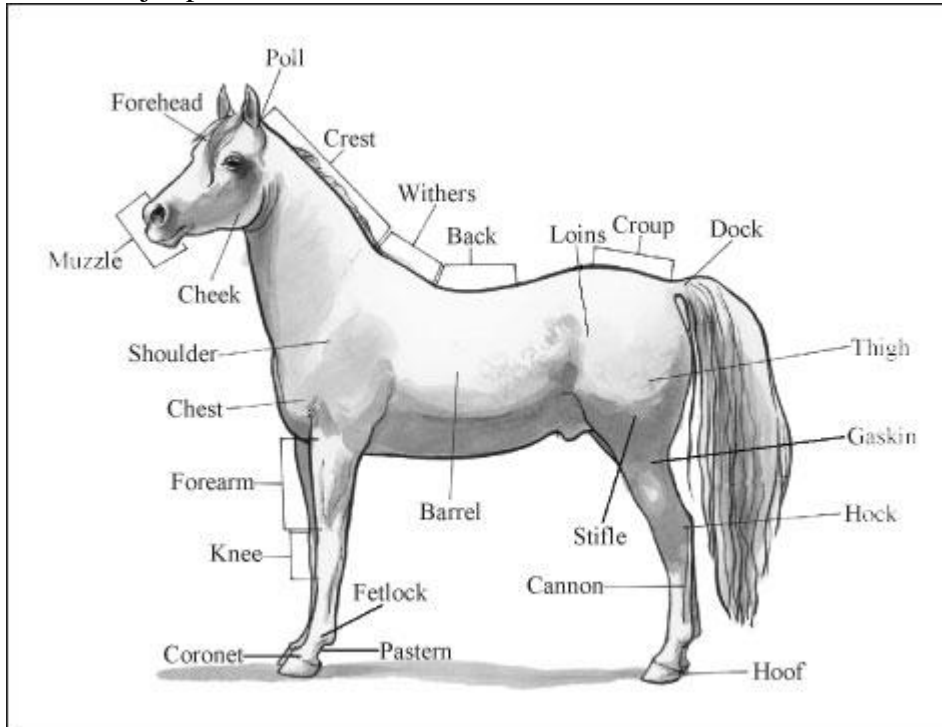
(C) Annamaria Tadlock

This is the basic English Saddle.



Head piece is also known as the **crown piece**, and **throatlatch** is spelled incorrectly in this diagram. Noseband is also known as the **cavesson**. Don't forget the **bit** and **reins!**

2. Ten major parts of the horse:



There are obviously more than 10—but you'll need to know 20 for your 2nd star.

3. Three types of bits and what each is best suited for:

A. PELHAM

Uses: It is a popular bit for schooling and general riding, providing the rider is knowledgeable about using a curb bit and riding with double reins. An English Pelham bit somewhat mimics the action of the bridoon (small snaffle bit) and weymouth (curb) bit combination used on a 'double bridle'. A Pelham may be used when a horse can not hold the two bits comfortably, or for convenience.

How It Works: The Pelham provides a somewhat muted effect of the bridoon/Weymouth combination. With curb rein the rider is able to lower the head and this is useful when schooling and encouraging proper head carriage. Activating the curb rein puts pressure on the bars of the mouth, chin, poll and if there is a port, the roof of the mouth.

B. KIMBERWICKE

Uses: This is a bit commonly used in general riding and provides more curb action to a horse that may be a strong puller or needs slight curb action to lower its head. It is quite common to see ponies wearing these bits.

How It Works: A Kimberwick is a leverage bit. The further the reins slide down the D ring, the more leverage is applied. The curb chain prevents the bit from rotating too far in the horse's mouth. When the reins are pulled back the bit applies pressure to the bars of the mouth, the chin and the poll. If there is a port, there may be pressure on the roof of the mouth. This is a bit commonly used in general riding and provides more aids to a horse that may be a strong puller or needs slight curb action to lower its head.

C. SNAFFLE (Eggbutt, D-ring, Loose ring, Full cheek...)

The plain, jointed snaffle is the bit in which many horses begin their education. It's the most basic design of bit, with a single joint in the center of the mouthpiece. When pressure is placed on the reins, the mouthpiece breaks at the joint, forming an angle which gives the tongue room. The mouthpiece acts on the lips where they cover the bars of the mouth. Also used on hunters (most often seen in D-ring snaffles). Generally known as a mild bit, however, can become more severe with twists, or different mouthpieces.

4. Name 5 breeds and their characteristics:

A. **Arabian**--The Arabian's head has a characteristic dished profile with a prominent eye, large nostrils and small teacup muzzle. His gracefully arched neck rises out of a long sloping shoulder and broad chest. A short, strong back and high trail carriage complete the picture. High energy horse, tend to be "hot" and are stereotypically flighty. Widely used in endurance riding. (*CASSIE*)

B. **Clydesdale**--A Clydesdale should have a nice open forehead (broad between the eyes), a flat (neither Roman-nosed nor "dished") profile, a wide muzzle, large nostrils, a bright, clear, intelligent eye, a big ear, and a well-arched long neck springing out of an oblique shoulder with high withers. His back should be short and his ribs well sprung from the backbone, like the hoops of a barrel. His quarters should be long, and his thighs well packed with muscle and sinew. He should have broad, clean, sharply developed hocks, and big knees, broad in front. The impression created by a thoroughly well-built typical Clydesdale is that of strength and activity, with a minimum of superfluous tissue. (*BUDWEISER HORSES*)

C. **Connemara**--The body of the Connemara is compact and deep, yet not bulky. It has legs which are short, clean, and have ample bone; the shoulders are rounded. The Connemara has a handsome head, the neck fairly lean, and it has abundant mane and tail. The Connemara stands between 12.2 and 14.2 hands. In spite of its relatively small size, the Connemara is known as an excellent hunter and jumper, and it competes in such varying events as distance riding and dressage. The Connemara was originally dun in coloring, but this color is now rare. (*BELLA*)

D. **Friesian**--One of the outstanding characteristics of the Friesian horse is its very long mane and tail. These are never cut and often reach the ground. The breed also has abundant feather and long leg hair reaching from the middle of the leg. The color is always black, and only a white star in the forehead is permissible. The head of the Friesian is carried quite high and the face is expressive. The neck is carried rather vertically and is low-set. The legs and quarters are muscular and smooth. Stands 15 hands high.

E. **Lipizzaner**--The Lipizzan is noted for his sturdy body, brilliant action and proud carriage as well as his intelligent and docile disposition. Born dark, black-brown, brown or mouse-grey, Lipizzans turn white somewhere between the ages of 6 and 10. As mentioned above, only in rare cases does the horse stay the original dark color. Not a tall horse, averaging between 14.3 to 15.3 hands, the Lipizzan presents a very powerful picture. The first thing noticed in the head are the large, appealing eyes. The influence of Arabian blood is found in the head, the small alert ears and the nose. The body, set off by a short powerful neck, presents a picture of strength with well-rounded quarters, heavy shoulders and short, strong legs with well defined tendons and joints. The tail is carried high and, like the mane, is thick and long.

F. **Morgan**--straight clean legs; deep muscling over his quarters and shoulders; and fine, intelligent head with large expressive eyes and short, pricked ears. Add to these the quality of his movement, a thick but silky mane and tail, and a clean-cut throatlatch, and you have the conformation of the ideal light horse. Small in stature (14-15 hands).

G. **Thoroughbred**--an animal which can carry weight with sustained speed over extended distances. The average height of today's Thoroughbred is a little over 16 hands. The head should be correctly proportioned to the rest of the body, displaying a good flat forehead and wide-set intelligent eyes. Carried relatively low, the head should sit well on a neck which is somewhat longer and lighter than in other breeds. The withers should be high and well-defined, leading to an evenly curved back. The shoulder should be deep, well-muscled and sloped along the same parallel as that on which the head is carried. From the point of the shoulder, the forearm should show adequate muscling which tapers towards a clean-looking knee which in turn tapers into the full width of the cannon. This in turn should be short and comparatively flat, with the tendons distinctly set out and clean. (*Shy, Johnny, Jet, Jebb...*)

H. **Quarter Horse**--so called because of its great speed at one quarter of a mile. Quick to start, easy to handle, and of a temperament suitable for handling cattle under a wide variety of conditions. Very versatile, can be found in all disciplines, from western speed and pleasure events to hunter/jumper horses. Quiet, wonderful disposition. (*Cash, Boot, Burt, Dalton*)

5. ID 3 unsoundnesses and tell where found:

A. **BOWED TENDON**: the result of tearing of the connecting tissue figures that comprise the superficial flexor tendon; the greatest majority of the tendon of the front legs of a horse. A change in shoeing angles, lowering the heel, or the introduction of a toe grab can cause a bow. Fatigue resulting in over-flexion of the fetlock (ankle) is also one cause, and if a horse is moved from relatively hard track surfaces to deeper tracks, a bow can occur. Working in deep mud or on excessively hard ground may also cause bows.

B. **LAMINITIS**: Laminitis is a very painful hoof condition. It is a failure of the attachment of the coffin bone and the inner hoof wall. The coffin bone is attached to the hoof wall by two interlocking layers of laminae (strong connecting tissues) and when these tissues get inflamed or the blood supply is disturbed, the attachment between the laminae fail. In severe cases, FOUNDER results (the coffin bone tearing away from the hoof wall and due to the strong pull of the deep digital flexor tendon a consequent rotation of the coffin bone within the hoof.) Most serious=coffin bone dropping through the sole of the hoof.

Causes include: The most common cause is the sudden ingestion of an excessive amount of carbohydrates. This is where the horse gorges itself on a lush pasture or eats excessive amounts of grain. Obese or overweight horses that have little exercise are very vulnerable. Excessive concussion on a hard surface has also been implicated. Laminitis can be a rapid sequel to toxic conditions such as retained placenta or Salmonella enteritis. Older horses that develop Cushing's disease, a hormonal disorder have an increased susceptibility to the condition. Also, excessive weight bearing on one leg (usually due to injury on the other—like Barbaro) can cause laminitis. (This is why, if one leg is wrapped, the other should be as well!)

C. **RINGBONE:** Ringbone, a lameness disease of the pastern and coffin joints, is a degenerative disorder that has no cure. Once the condition occurs, it's always there and will progressively worsen. Fortunately, with treatment and good management, the disease's progression can be slowed, allowing the horse to remain competitive. Ringbone causes an enlargement all the way around the leg at the level of the joint. High ringbone refers to the pastern joint and low ringbone refers to the coffin joint. The disease is similar to arthritis, with the affected area showing bone spur (additional bone buildup) and degenerative joint disease. Articular ringbone (affecting the joint surface) affects the cartilage and joint lining, resulting in enlargement, pain, and stiffness of the joint. Periarticular (near the joint) ringbone affects the soft structures near the joint, such as ligaments and joint capsules. **Causes include:** These structures, when inflamed by trauma, laceration, or sudden or chronic athletic strain, respond by stimulating bony growth. Poor conformation for the athletic use of the horse can also contribute to ringbone. We find that periarticular ringbone is more common and more serious.

6. When and when not to water a horse; qualities needed in hay for horse:

A. **Watering horses:**

Water is the most basic and important part of feeding. A horse should have fresh, clean water available at all times EXCEPT immediately following exercise, when the horse is hot. During cooling out, the horse may have a few sips of lukewarm (NOT COLD) water at a time. When your horse is completely cool, he may have more lukewarm water, but should not be allowed to drink too much at once, and should not be allowed too much cold water until he's been cool for a while. Drinking too much cold water when hot can lead to colic (Black Beauty).

B. **Hay qualities:**

Good hay should smell sweet and be green in color. Hay should ALWAYS be dust and mold free. Moldy hay smells musty and can have white, grey, or black patches. The smell of moldy hay is very nasty, you can't miss it! (Smell the hay that we use for jumps in the arena). If hay is dusty, it should be soaked in water to eliminate the dust particles. Dust is very bad for a horse's lungs, and mold can cause illness.

7. Proper grooming and procedure:

As a rule, the horse should be tied or cross-tied correctly, with a well-fitting halter.

1. Curry horse using a rubber, plastic or metal curry in a circular motion, starting at the neck and working downward and backward. This loosens dirt and stimulates skin. Sensitive areas should not be curried.
2. Use dandy brush (also known as stiff or hard bristled brush) in the direction of the hair, with short strokes in a flicking motion. This brush removes most of the larger dirt particles loosened with the curry. Also use this brush on the legs to make sure there is no dirt accumulated.
3. Use body brush (also known as soft brush) in a similar manner as the dandy brush. Clean this brush every few strokes with a curry. Brush face and legs with this brush as well.
4. Pick feet with hoof pick, starting at the heel, and moving towards the toe. Clean the frog and the spaces to the side. Check for stones and in shod horses, make sure that each shoe is tight and that the nails and clinches are smooth. Brush foot out.
5. Pick tangles from mane and tail, being careful to NOT pull any hairs out! There should be no debris in the mane or tail. Stand to one side when grooming tail, as to not get kicked.
6. Use a damp towel or sponge to clean eyes, nostrils, and muzzle.
7. Manure or grass stains can be removed with a damp towel, shampoo, or in extreme cases, alcohol.

8. Describe use of aids in:

A. Moving the horse forward:

Look up at where you want to go. Make sure reins are short enough to just feel the mouth, without tension. Squeeze legs into horse's sides, and if he doesn't listen, then nudge. Let hands follow the horse's head motion as he moves forward.

B. Halting:

Deep breath, sit tall, shoulders back. Heels down, close knees, and stop following horse's head motion with hands. Squeeze fingers together, and for a stronger (only if necessary) aid, bend elbows back. Release pressure as horse comes to a halt.

C. Turning:

Look where you want to go. Sit tall and turn seat slightly. Bend elbow back (on the side that you want to turn to) and take hand slightly out to the side to turn horse's head. Bring outside leg slightly behind girth to keep haunches in line. Keep moving forward using both legs at horse's sides.

9. Describe and demonstrate mounting and dismounting properly:

A. MOUNTING:

Run stirrups down. Check girth, and tighten if necessary. On horse's left side, hold reins in right hand so that there is light contact on horse's mouth. Left foot in stirrup, facing horse's head, with left hand holding horse's mane. Push off with right foot and swing over, taking care to NOT bump the horse. Sit gently on the horse's back.

B. DISMOUNTING:

There are TWO schools of dismounting, and they vary only slightly. I prefer the method of: Halt horse. Hold reins with light contact on horse's mouth, in left hand. Drop both stirrups. Swing right leg behind you, using right hand at horse's withers for leverage. Slide off without leaning on horse, and land gently on the ground.

The other method is the same, except instead of dropping both stirrups, keep left one. As right leg is swung over, kick left foot out of stirrup. Continue from there.

10. Approaching the horse:

A. In a straight stall:

Talk to horse to make them aware of your presence. Walk to side of horse, and ask to move over, with hand on rump. Quickly but quietly walk to horse's head. Untie horse and back out of stall.

B. Tied outside:

Try to approach horse by the shoulder. Speak to the horse first. If you must approach from behind, see above, except in this situation, turn horse around to lead off.

C. Loose:

Approach horse's shoulder, speaking to him. Pat horse, and slip leadline over neck. Put halter on. Lead off. Be very careful if using treats—the other horses in the pasture may bully their way in to get them.

D. Halter tie:

I have to assume that they're asking for a safety release knot. Most of you know how to do one already, but we'll review it.