

Family Times

Summary

Horse Heroes

Horses have played a major role in human history. They have done important work for us, such as delivering packages before the days of trains and automobiles. Horses have been our companions, joining us on adventures through dangerous lands. When movies were invented, horses became stars of the screen, entertaining us as four-legged actors. Some horses and their riders have made such a mark on our history, their names will be remembered for years to come.



Activity

Ask your family members how they think life would be different if you had to depend on a horse for all your travel. Make a list of the ways using a horse, and taking care of one, would change your day-to-day activities.

Comprehension Skill

Fact and Opinion

A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false, because it expresses a belief or a judgment.

Activity

That's Your Opinion Read a short article aloud together. After every statement, stop to discuss whether it is a statement of fact or opinion. If it is a statement of fact, discuss what sources you could use to prove the statement true or false.

Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *Horse Heroes*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

ambition strong desire to achieve; will to succeed

infested covered by something harmful or offensive

landslide the rapid slipping of a relatively dry mass of earth and rock

quicksand a bog of very deep, wet sand that sucks down objects, people, or animals

resistance the act of working against or actively opposing or withstanding

rickety likely to break or fall apart; shaky

roamed moved or traveled without purpose or plan

vast very great in size

Conventions

Singular Possessive Nouns

A **singular possessive noun** is a singular noun that shows ownership. *For example: Lisa's shoes are green. The dog's ears are floppy.* "Lisa's" and "dog's" are *singular possessive nouns*. Singular possessive nouns are formed by adding -'s to the end of the noun. It does not matter whether or not the noun already ends in *s*. *For example: the table's legs, Tess's toy.*

Activity

Whose Is This? Together, take a walk around your house. Point to items that belong to a certain member of the family. In a notebook, fill in the following sentence for each item you see: The ____ is _____. *For example: The book is Kari's.*

Practice Tested Spelling Words

| | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

Name _____

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. You can look in a reference book, ask an expert, or use your own knowledge and experience.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as *best*, *should*, or *beautiful*. It may begin with the words *in my opinion* or *I believe*.

Directions Read the following passage. Then complete the table. Read each statement and answer the questions at the top of each column.

My family is going to visit an animal rescue shelter this weekend. Rescue shelters take in animals that have been abandoned or mistreated by people. My parents say my sister and I can choose a pet from the shelter, but we can't agree on what type of pet to get. Cats make the best pets because you can teach a cat to use a litter box. Dogs have to be walked three or four

times a day, and that's too much trouble.

Of course, my sister wants a dog—a big one. Raising a puppy requires time to train them. My sister promises that she will take care of a dog every day, but I think she is too irresponsible. Besides, kittens are cuter than puppies. When we go the shelter to look at all the animals, I believe she'll change her mind.

| Statement | Does it state a fact or an opinion? | If an opinion, what are the clue words? If a fact, how could you prove it? |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| Rescue shelters take in animals that have been abandoned or mistreated by people. | Fact | Contact animal shelters to find out where their animals come from. |
| A puppy requires time to train | 1. | 2. |
| Kittens are cuter than puppies. | 3. | 4. |

5. Find one sentence that contains both a statement of fact and a statement of opinion.



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short paragraph. Listen to or watch a news program with your child. Ask your child to tell you when he or she hears the news announcer expressing an opinion. Ask your child to explain why it is an opinion rather than a fact.

Name _____

Vocabulary

Directions Choose the word from the box that best matches each definition. Write the word on the line to the left.

- _____ 1. area of deep, water-filled sand or dirt that cannot support weight, so objects sink into it
- _____ 2. unstable, about to fall apart
- _____ 3. strength or determination against opposing force or conditions
- _____ 4. feeling or trait causing a person to pursue a goal
- _____ 5. filled with so much or many as to be unhealthy, dangerous, or irritating

Check the Words You Know

- ___ambition
 ___infested
 ___landslide
 ___quicksand
 ___resistance
 ___rickety
 ___roamed
 ___vast

Directions Choose the word from the box that best completes each sentence. Write the word on the line to the left.

- _____ 6. The insect repellent allowed us some _____ against all the mosquitoes on our hike.
- _____ 7. His mansion destroyed in the _____, the millionaire vowed to rebuild on the same hill because he likes the view.
- _____ 8. Huge wind farms now cover _____ areas of desert that were once believed to be useless.
- _____ 9. Her _____ to be the first female president was finally within reach after years of hard work.
- _____ 10. The lost sheep _____ around the countryside for days.

Write a Journal Entry

On a separate sheet of paper, write a journal entry about an adventure you took with an animal on which you depended for help. Use as many vocabulary words as you can.



Home Activity Your child identified and used vocabulary words from *Horse Heroes*. Read a selection with your child. List any unfamiliar words and try to figure out the meaning of each word by using other words that appear around it. Use a dictionary when necessary.

Name _____

Vocabulary • Unfamiliar Words

- **Dictionaries** and **glossaries** provide alphabetical lists of words and their meanings.
- Sometimes looking at the words around an unfamiliar word can't help you figure out the word's meaning. If this happens, use a dictionary or glossary to find the meaning.

Directions Read the following story. Then answer the questions below.

The buffalo lifted his massive, wooly head and looked toward the sunset. An old and mighty bull, he was leader of a herd that roamed the wide, vast plains that spread out between the mountains. He did not usually need to think much, but tonight he was deep in thought. Strange humans had come to his lands. Only a few arrived in rickety wagons at first. Now the plains were infested with them.

The buffaloes' tough hides gave them resistance against the teeth of wolves and sometimes against the arrows of the First People. But the newcomers shot at his herd with sticks of fire. The ambition of these people seemed to be to conquer all the land and every creature on it. He wondered sadly if he could find a safe place to take his herd. He had to try. In the morning they would head west toward the Big Water beyond the mountains.

1. Which words around the word *vast* can help you figure out its meaning?

2. What is the meaning of the word *rickety*? How did you determine its meaning?

3. What words around the word *resistance* help you figure out its meaning?

4. What is the meaning of the word *ambition*? How did you determine its meaning?

5. Use a dictionary or glossary to find the definition for one of the words you couldn't define using the words around it. Write the definition.



Home Activity Your child identified unfamiliar words that could be defined using a dictionary or glossary. Work with your child to identify unfamiliar words in a newspaper or magazine article. Ask your child if he or she needs to use a dictionary to find the meaning of the words. If so, ask your child to look up at least one definition in a dictionary or glossary.

Name _____

Main Idea and Details

Directions Read the article. Then answer the questions below.

In 1798, a ship left Australia carrying an unusual creature. Scientists in England opened the crate carrying the body of the animal and were shocked. They were looking at a platypus, but some of them believed it was a joke. What mammal has fur, a duck's bill, and webbed feet? One scientist checked to see if the platypus was sewn together like some strange doll. After two centuries, science is even more surprised by this small animal that may be the most unusual on Earth.

Platypuses seem to have traits borrowed from other animals. When attacked, males use claws on their hind legs to inject painful venom like that of a snake. The platypus is the only mammal that hunts by sensing electricity given off by its prey's body, like a shark. It doesn't give birth to live young, but lays eggs like a bird or reptile. Despite years of study, the platypus remains a mystery to scientists.

1. In one or two words, what are all of the sentences about?

2. What is the main idea of the passage?

3. What is one supporting detail that tells more about the main idea?

4. What is another supporting detail for the main idea?

5. On a separate sheet of paper, write a summary of the passage in one or two sentences.



Home Activity Your child identified the main idea and supporting details of a nonfiction passage and wrote a summary of it. Read a short magazine or newspaper article with your child. Work together to identify the main idea and supporting details of the article. Then use this information to write a short summary.

Name _____

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. You can look in a reference book, ask an expert, or use your own knowledge and experience.
- A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false. It is a belief or a judgment. It often contains a word of judgment, such as *best*, *should*, or *beautiful*. It may begin with the words *In my opinion* or *I believe*.

Directions Read the following passage. Then answer the questions below.

When many people take a safari in Africa, they are excited to see lions. Zebras, however, are much more interesting. Zebras are exciting, graceful relatives of horses. While their stripes make them beautiful, they also provide protection. Lions hunt zebras for food, but because lions are color-blind, the zebras' stripes make them difficult to see. The herd is camouflaged in the tall, wavy grass.

If hyenas attack, the herd encircles the young zebras. The stallion fights the predators bravely. Young females will “flirt” with stallions from nearby herds. The female’s father, however, is protective. A young stallion must prove himself by challenging her father to a contest of strength and fighting skill. If the young stallion wins, he takes his new mate home to his herd. Clearly, besides being the bravest, most beautiful animals in Africa, zebras are also the most romantic!

1. Is the second sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

2. The third sentence contains both fact and opinion. Which phrase is the fact?

3. Is the fifth sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?

4. Is the seventh sentence a fact or an opinion? How can you tell?



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and opinion in a short paragraph. Read a letter to the editor from the newspaper with your child. Ask your child to tell you when he or she reads an opinion. Ask your child to explain why it is an opinion rather than a fact.

Fact and Opinion

- A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. You can look in a reference book, ask an expert, or use your own knowledge and experience.
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Directions Read the following passage. Read each numbered statement in the boxes. Draw a line from each box to the oval titled “fact” or “opinion.”

The farmer noticed me staring at his two horses in amazement. “These are called Shire horses,” he said, as he unhitched their harnesses. The big animals had just pulled a huge stump from the ground like it was a weed. The farmer was happy to tell me about this breed of horse that was bred for working. “Shires come from England,” he explained. “They’re the best horses around!”

“They are descendants of the horses of Julius Caesar from over a thousand years ago,” he added. He told me that their hair can be almost any color. “The spotted ones are the prettiest,” he declared. I said that I was impressed by their size. “These two are pretty big,” he said, “but Shire horses can weigh over two thousand pounds. And they can grow to six feet at the shoulder.”

FACT

1. The Shire horse comes from England.

2. They’re the best horses around.

3. They are the descendants of the horses of Julius Caesar.

4. The spotted ones are the prettiest.

5. Shire horses can weigh over two thousand pounds.

OPINION



Home Activity Your child identified statements of fact and statements of opinion in a short passage. Read information on a cereal box with your child. Ask your child to tell you which information is a fact and which is opinion and why.

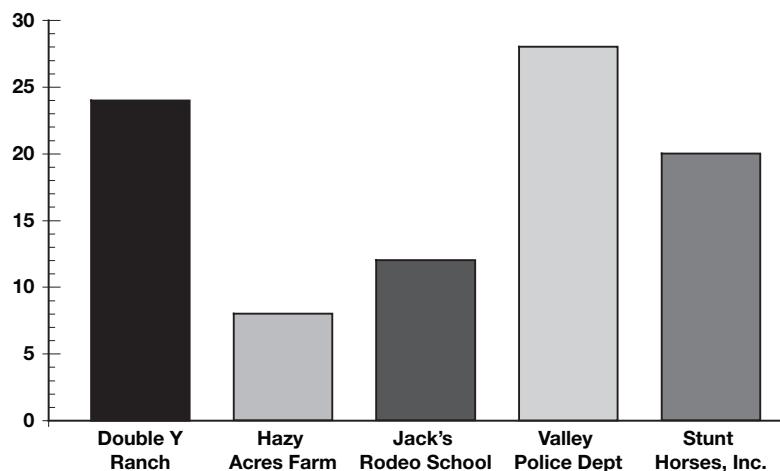
Name _____

Graph

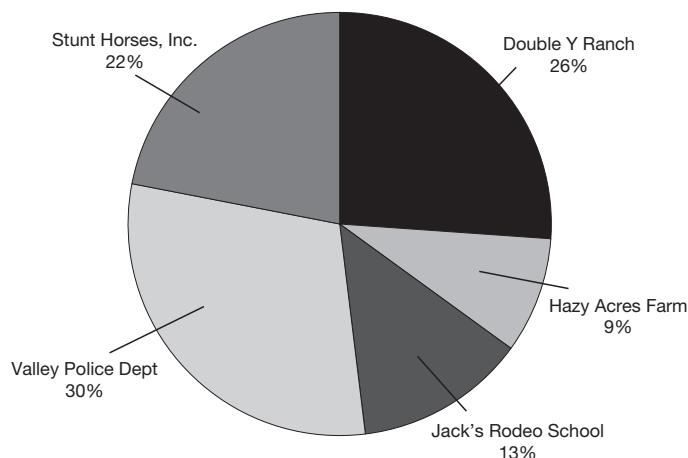
- **Graphs** show data in visual form. Graphs can quickly show how one piece of information compares to other pieces of information. There are several types of graphs.
- A **bar graph** uses vertical or horizontal bars to show different amounts of something.
- A **circle graph** has a pie shape. It shows how something can be divided into parts.
- A **line graph** contains lines that connect a series of points on a graph. Line graphs are good for showing changes that happen over time.
- A **picture graph** uses pictures to show amounts or numbers of things.

Directions Bart, the blacksmith, wants to know who his best customers are. The number of horseshoes his customers needed in the past may also tell him how much business he can expect in the future. Study the bar graph and the circle graph below. Then answer the questions on the next page.

Number of Horseshoes Sold in One Month



% of Total Horseshoes Needed in One Year



Name _____

Directions Use the graphs to answer the following questions.

1. How do you know what each graph shows?

2. What unit is used in the bar graph to measure how much business Bart is doing?

3. Whose names appear along the bottom of the bar graph?

4. How is the information in each graph similar? How is it different?

5. Who needed the most horseshoes in one month?

6. Who gave Bart the least amount of business over one month?

7. In the circle graph, what is being divided into parts?

8. What is the difference between the percent of horseshoes needed by Stunt Horses, Inc., and Double Y Ranch in one year?

9. What does the bar graph show that the circle graph does not?

10. How could you show the information in the bar graph as a picture graph?



Home Activity Your child learned about different kinds of graphs. Draw and label a line graph to show the hours you spent doing a common activity over the period of a week.