

KHC KIDS

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MAY, 2025

Meet Bluestem!
Our official mascot!

Meet the Breed
A look into 1
iconic horse
breed!

Photo
submission
contest

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ALL ABOUT BLUESTEM!

Hay there!

My name is Bluestem, but my friends call me Blue! I am proud to be the official KHC Kids mascot. Check out some fun facts about me on the next page, I can't wait to be on this adventure with you!



Together, we will learn cool things about horses and our world while having fun creating, exploring and sharing! Welcome to the herd!

ALL ABOUT BLUESTEM!

I was named Bluestem in honor of the Kansas Tall Grass prairie, where I grew up with my herd. The Bluestem grass is a native plant that grows all over our state and feeds many species of animals while providing shelter for wildlife! Pretty cool huh?

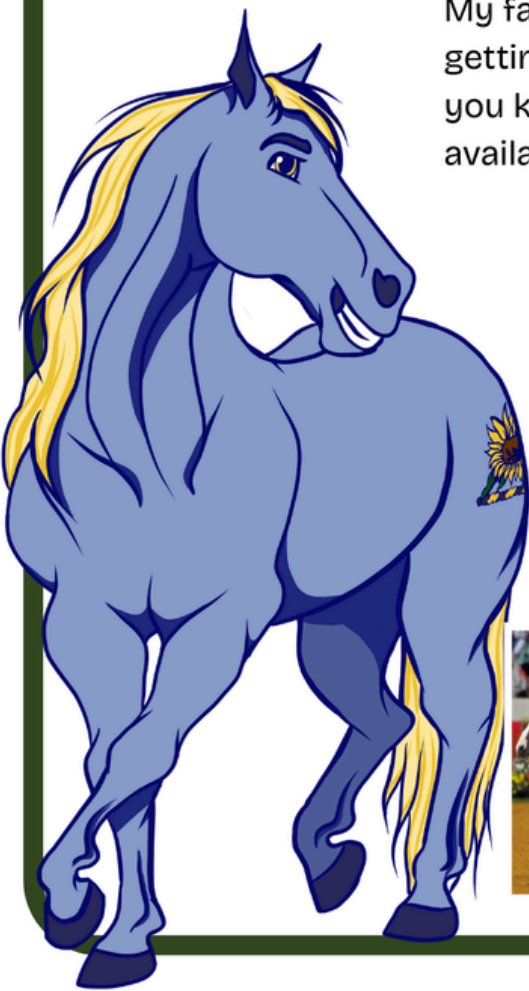
I am an American Quarter Horse! My breed is among one of the most common and popular breeds around the world, there is an estimate of **OVER 6 MILLION** of us worldwide!



My favorite hobby is to trail ride! I love getting to explore new areas in Kansas! Did you know we have a **state trail guide** available at the KHC office and online?



I have a very large family! The Kansas equine community is filled with so many different kinds of horses, donkeys and mules that are diversely talented! From showing, to rodeo, trails to racing and beyond, the Kansas equine industry is the place to explore and learn new skills and disciplines!



BREED OF THE MONTH!

AMERICAN CREAM DRAFT

Have you ever seen a horse the color of whipped cream or soft gold? The American Cream Draft is a rare and beautiful horse that's known for its creamy coat, which can be light like vanilla or rich like golden butter! They also have soft white manes and tails that look like flowing silk.

These gentle giants are **one of the only draft horse breeds that began in the United States**—and they've been helping farmers for over 100 years! They're strong, calm, and love being around people.



Read the next page for more American Cream Draft Horse Facts AND a fun activity!



AMERICAN CREAM DRAFT



Where They Came From:

American Cream Drafts started in Iowa in the early 1900s. A cream colored mare named Old Granny is the foundation of the breed.

What They're Used For:

These horses were bred to be workhorses—pulling wagons, plows, and doing other heavy farm jobs. Today, they're also used in parades, driving, and even for fun trail rides!

How Big Are They?

- Mares (girls): 1,500–1,800 lbs
- Stallions/Geldings (boys): 1,800–2,000+ lbs
- They usually stand 15–16.3 hands tall (that's about 5 to 5½ feet at the shoulder!).

Their Special Color

Their light coats are called "gold champagne", caused by a rare gene. This gene also gives them their pink skin and amber eyes!



☀️ Why Are American Cream Drafts So Rare?

The American Cream Draft isn't just special because of its pretty color—it's also one of the rarest horse breeds in the world!

📖 A long time ago, there were thousands of them working on farms. But when tractors took over, people stopped breeding these gentle giants. Their numbers dropped a lot.

📅 Today, there are only about **400 to 500** registered American Cream Draft horses in the whole world!

They are considered a "critical" breed by the Livestock Conservancy. That means they're at risk of disappearing if people don't keep breeding and caring for them.

❤️ The good news? Horse lovers are working hard to protect them! Breeders, farmers, and fans are helping this creamy-colored draft horse make a comeback.



✨ Wanna Help this rare breed?

Draw a picture of an American Cream Draft and tell a friend about the American Cream Draft!

ACTIVITY #1

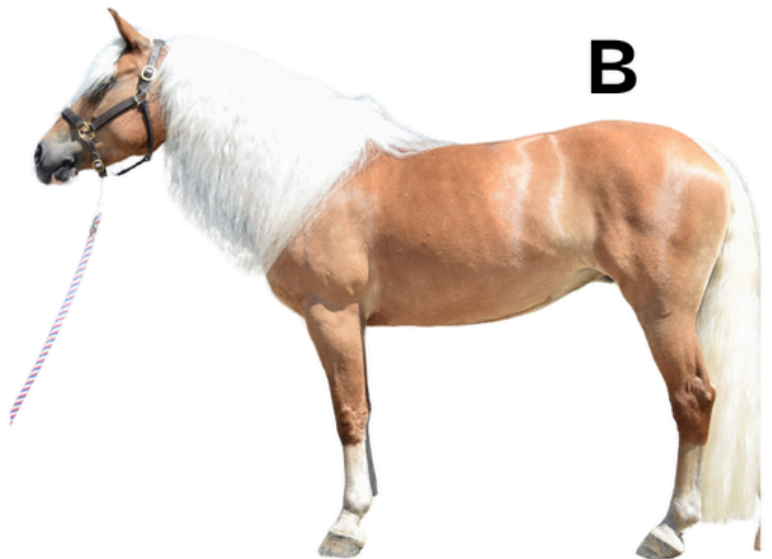
Find and circle the American Cream Draft!

(Answer will be on the second to last page of the booklet!)

A



B



C



D



HAY THERE, LET'S EAT!

NICKERS AND NEIGHS OF FOOD FOR HORSES



Sweet Feed

A mix of grains like corn and oats with molasses added for taste. It's high in sugar and energy, great for hardworking horses—but not the best choice for horses that get hyper or gain weight easily.



Oats

A traditional grain that gives horses quick energy. Often used for active or young horses, but must be balanced with hay and other nutrients.



Beet Pulp

A soft, soakable feed made from sugar beets. Low in sugar but high in fiber and calories, it's great for weight gain and hydration—especially for senior horses or picky eaters.



Alfalfa Pellets

These are made from dried alfalfa hay and are high in protein and calcium. Great for growing horses, nursing mares, or horses who need extra fuel—but not ideal for easy keepers.



Supplements

Extra nutrients given alongside regular feed. These help with joint health, hooves, digestion, or coat shine, and more!

Senior Feeds

A type of complete feed for horses who may have trouble chewing or maintaining weight. It's soft, easy to eat, and includes everything older horses need, like extra fiber, fat, and vitamins.

Like people, horses have to eat right to feel right! This month we are going to learn about some whinny worthy feeds!



Complete Feeds

A complete feed has everything a horse needs in one scoop—including the fiber usually found in hay. It's perfect for horses who can't chew hay well or don't have access to grass. It's soft, easy to eat, and keeps their diet balanced all by itself!



Maintenance feeds

Made for horses that aren't working hard and stay in good weight easily. They give just the right nutrients—not too much energy! But horses still need hay or pasture with them.

ACTIVITY #2 - TREAT PLEASE!

SWEET OAT TREAT RECIPE



Ingredients:

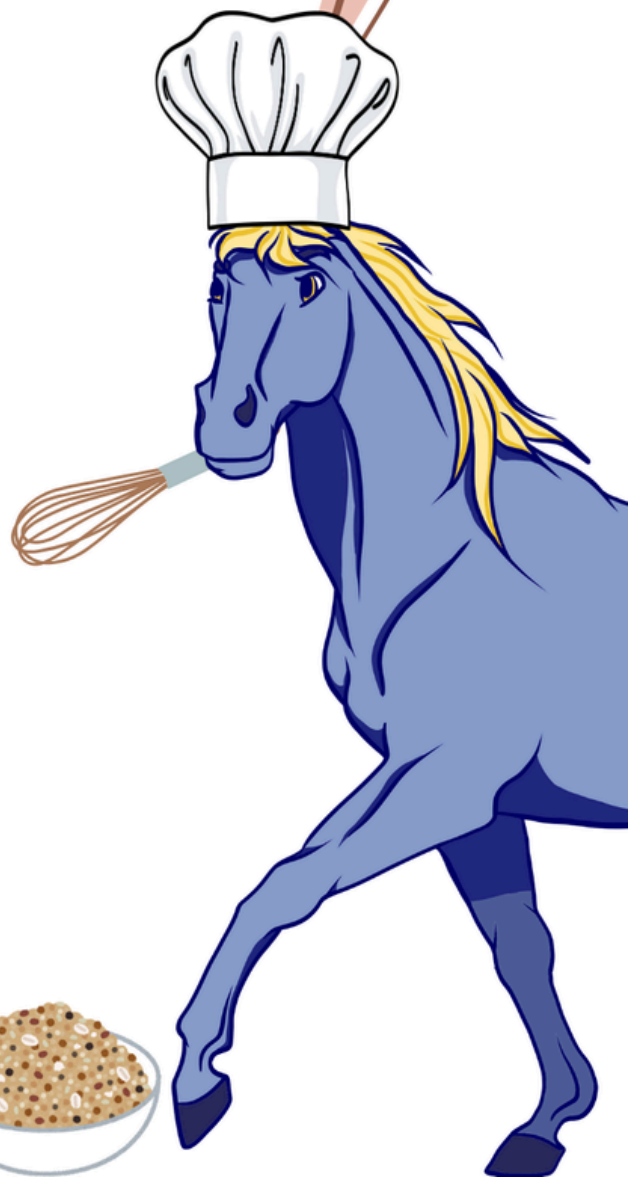
- 1 large carrot
- 1 large apple
- 1 cup molasses
- 2 1/2 cups old-fashioned oats
- 2 tablespoons oil



Directions:

1. Shred the carrot and the apple into a large bowl.
2. Combine the oil, oats, and molasses with the apple and carrot mixture.
3. Stir well to combine so that all the oats are covered in molasses.
4. Pour the mixture into a greased 9"x13" baking pan. (Pro tip: using parchment paper instead of greasing the pan makes getting the treats out of the pan a snap!)
5. Flatten the mixture into the baking pan.
6. Bake at 400 degrees Fahrenheit until crispy, for about 45 minutes.
7. Remove the pan from the oven and score the treats across the top using a butter knife.
8. Allow the treats to cool completely. They will harden as they cool.
9. Once completely cool, break them into pieces at the score marks.

**MAKE SURE
TO HAVE AN
ADULT HELP!**



TACK BOX TREASURES!

YOUR CORNER FOR LEARNING ABOUT TACK AND EQUINE EQUIPMENT!

This month we will be learning about...

THE WESTERN BRIDLE

Brow Band

A strap that goes across the horse's forehead to keep the bridle in place.

Throat Latch

Helps keep the bridle from slipping off by going under the horse's throat.

Cheek Piece

Attaches the bit to the headstall and runs down the side of the horse's face.

Headstall

The main part of the bridle that fits over the horse's head and holds everything together.

Curbstrap

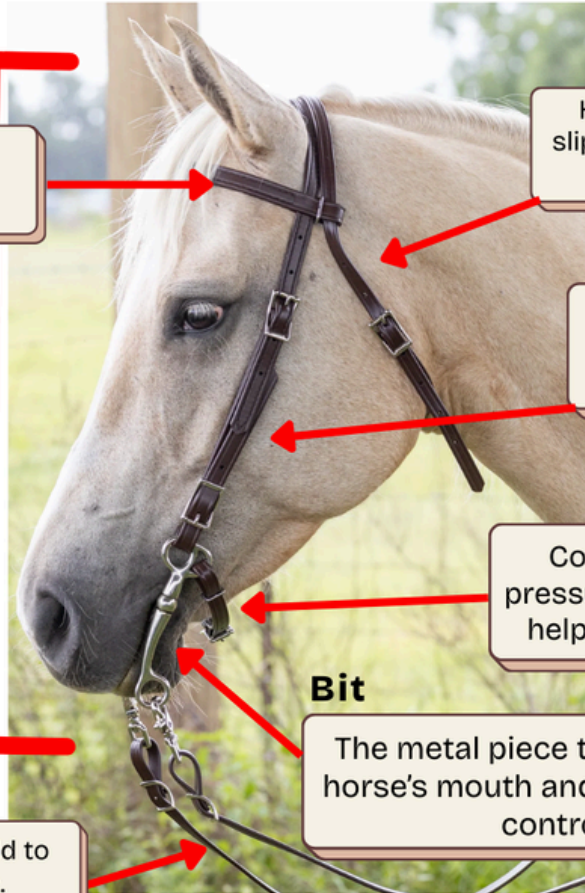
Connects to the bit and puts pressure under the horse's chin to help with stopping and control.

Bit

The metal piece that goes in the horse's mouth and helps the rider control it.

Reins

The leather you hold to guide the horse.



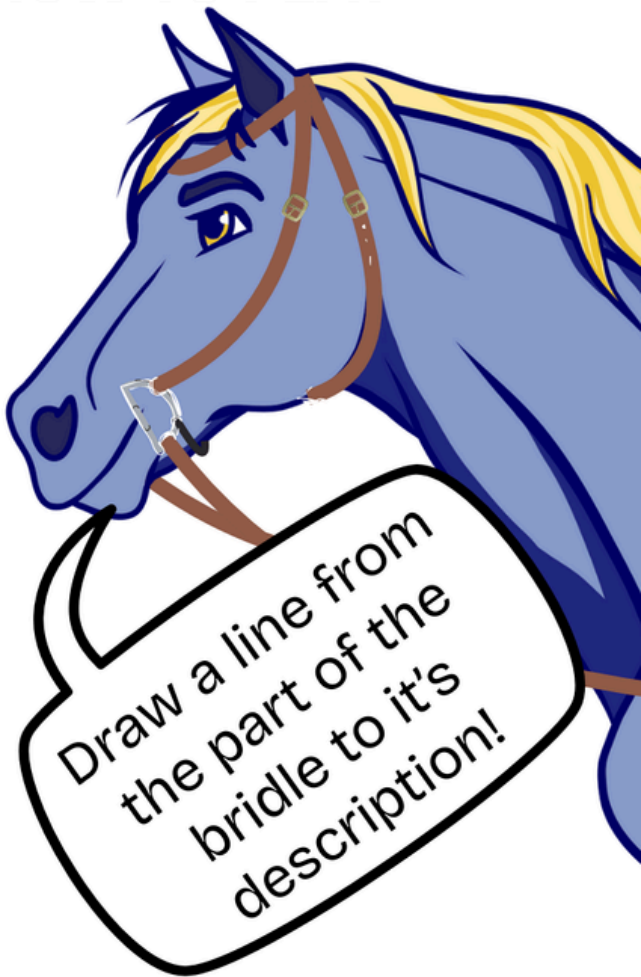
A **Western bridle** is a piece of tack used to help control and communicate with a horse while riding. It fits on the horse's head and is used with reins to guide the horse, telling it where to go or when to stop. Western bridles are commonly used in Western riding disciplines. They are designed to provide control while also ensuring comfort for the horse.



ACTIVITY #3 - BRIDLE DETECTIVES!

HOW TO PLAY

Bit	The main part of the bridle that fits over the horse's head and holds everything together.
Reins	Helps keep the bridle from slipping off by going under the horse's throat.
Headstall	The leather you hold to guide the horse.
Browband	Connects to the bit and puts pressure under the horse's chin to help with stopping and control.
Throat Latch	Attaches the bit to the headstall and runs down the side of the horse's face.
Curbstrap	The metal piece that goes in the horse's mouth and helps the rider control it.
Cheek Piece	A strap that goes across the horse's forehead to keep the bridle in place.



Example:

Bridle	The piece of tack placed on the horses back where the rider sits.
O-Ring Snaffle	A piece of tack that is fit onto the horses head to guide and communicate.
Saddle	A type of bit

Answer on the second to last page!

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR!

EQUINE GENETICS

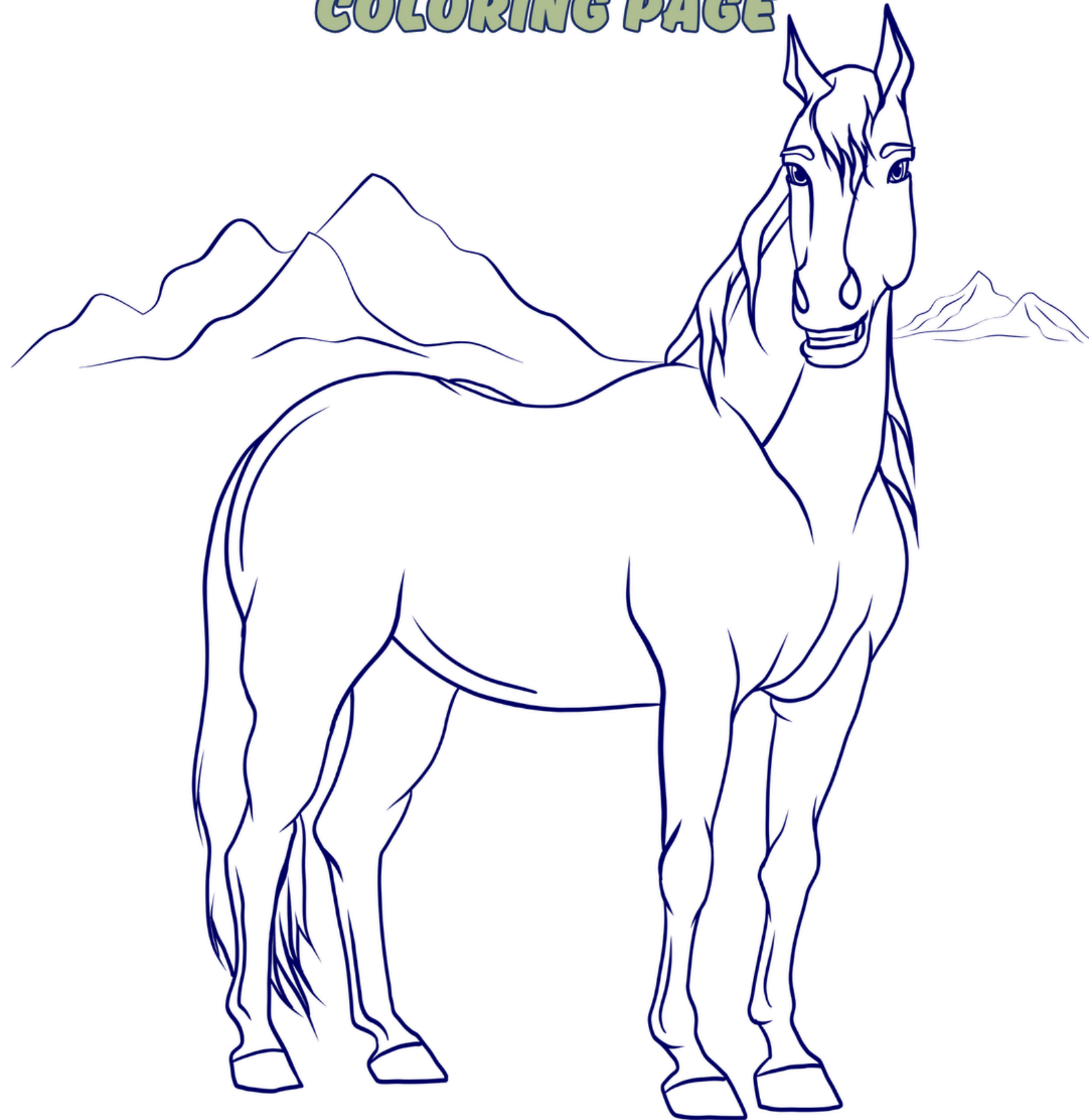


Silver (also called silver dapple or taffy) is a gene that dilutes black pigment in a horse's coat, especially affecting the mane and tail. It's inherited as a **dominant trait**, meaning both **homozygous** (Z/Z) and **heterozygous** (Z/n) horses can show silver. Homozygous horses might be slightly more diluted than heterozygous ones. Silver horses often have striped hooves and white eyelashes.

Black silver horses are sometimes called chocolate palominos, with a brown body and a white or cream mane and tail. Bay silver horses may look like a normal bay, but with grey legs and a reddish body. This can cause confusion, as they might be mistaken for flaxen chestnuts. Silver doesn't affect chestnut or sorrel horses.

A HORSE OF A DIFFERENT COLOR!

ACTIVITY #4 COLORING PAGE



HORSEPOWER IN ACTION!

LEARN ABOUT RIDING DISCIPLINES!

REINING!



Reining is a **western riding competition** where horses show off how well they can listen and respond to their riders. The rider asks the horse to do specific movements like big, fast circles, small, slow circles, quick spins, and cool **sliding stops**—where the horse's back feet slide while the front feet keep going forward!

Reining is sometimes called the “Western dressage” because it shows off precision, control, and teamwork. Judges look for horses that stay calm, focused, and smooth through the whole pattern.

Reining horses are usually strong and athletic—Quarter Horses are one of the most popular breeds for this sport. Riders often wear cowboy hats, boots, and flashy shirts to match the exciting atmosphere.

HAVE YOU EVER TRIED REINING?

TEN COOL HORSE FACTS!

#1

Horses have bigger eyes than any other land mammal.



#2

They can't breathe through their mouth—only their nose!



#4

Horse ears can rotate 180 degrees.



#3

The tallest horse ever measured was over 7 feet tall at the shoulder!



#6

Horses can drink up to 10 gallons of water a day—more if it's hot out!



#8

The oldest horse on record lived to be 62 years old!



#5

Some horses can grow mustaches!



#7

A horse's tail has over 100,000 individual hairs.



#9

Draft horses can pull more than 8,000 pounds in competitions!

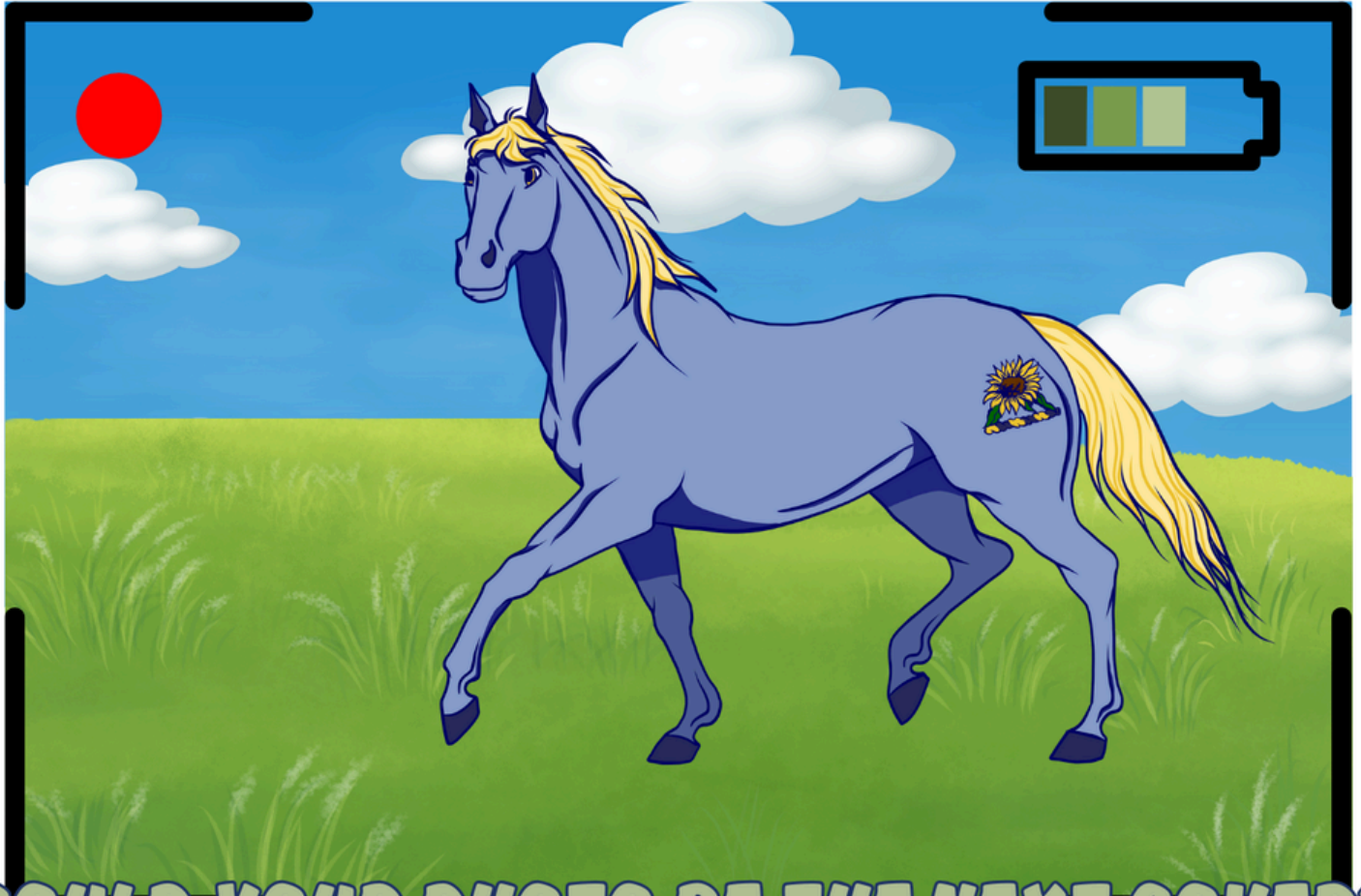


#10

Horse eyes are set on the sides of their heads, so they can see nearly 350° around them.



PHOTO CONTEST!



COULD YOUR PHOTO BE THE NEXT COVER?

Wanna have your photo featured on the cover of next month's KHC Kids Booklet? Submit a photo today!

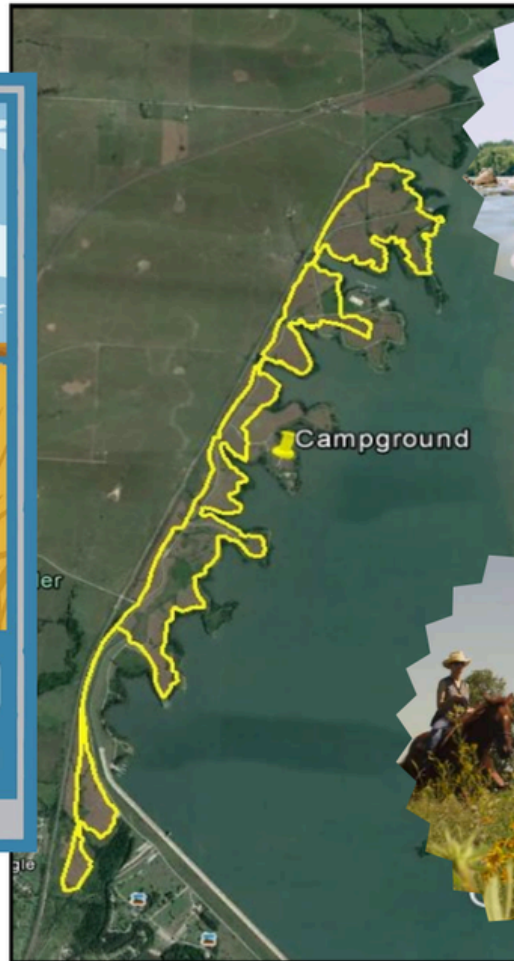
How To:

Take a picture of an equine friend (you don't have to own a horse to participate!) and have your parent or guardian email it to the email below!

director@kansashorsecouncil.com

KS HORSE TRAIL OF THE MONTH!

EL DORADO STATE PARK



ABOUT THE TRAIL!

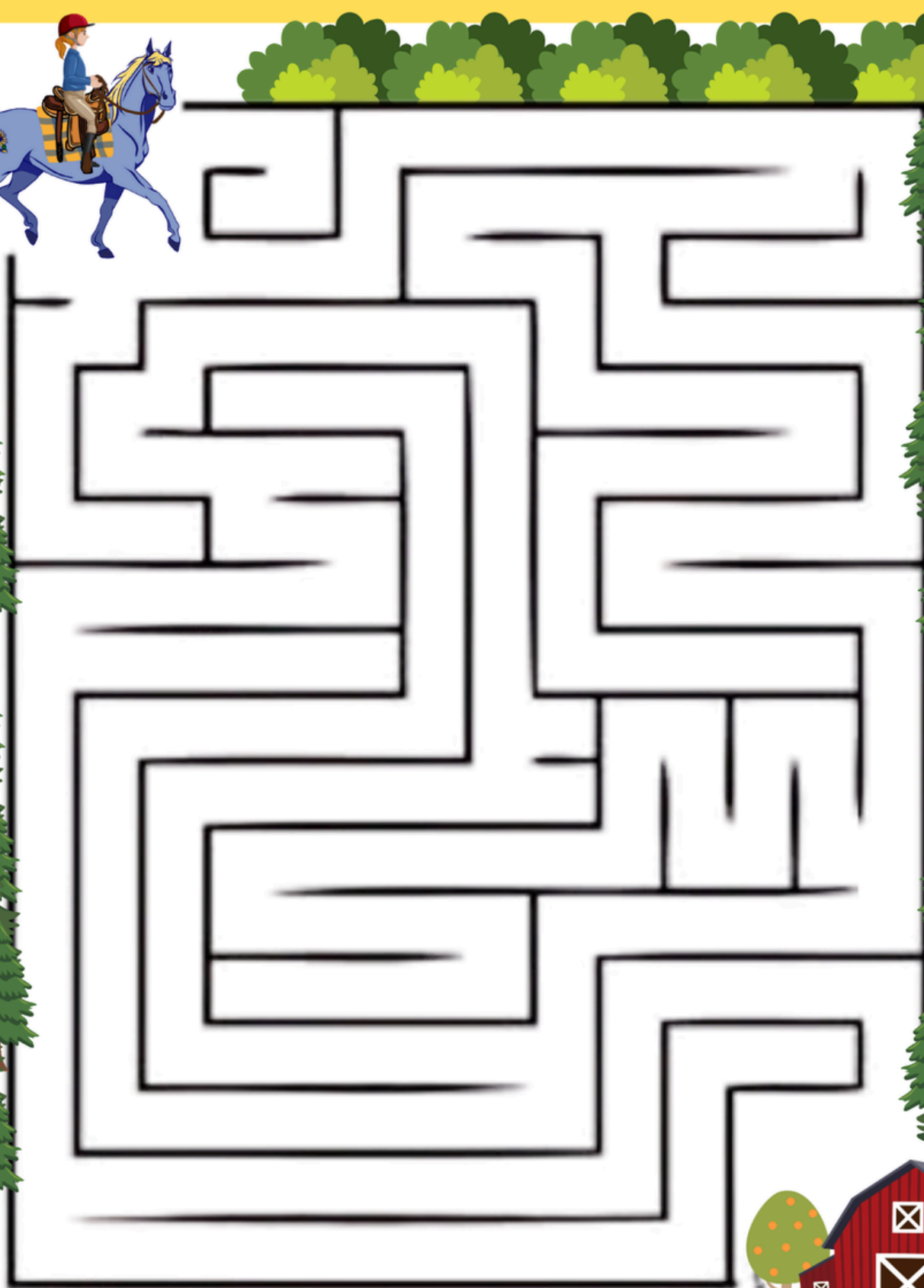
El Dorado State Park, located in Kansas, is a fantastic place for horseback riding adventures. The park features the Boulder Bluff Horse Trail, a 12-mile path that winds through the beautiful Flint Hills and along the shores of El Dorado Lake. This trail is open year-round and is perfect for riders of all skill levels.

For those looking to extend their stay, the Boulder Bluff Area 1 offers an equestrian campground equipped with corrals and other horse-friendly amenities. While exploring the trails, riders might spot wildlife such as white-tailed deer, wild turkeys, and various waterfowl.



ACTIVITY #6

HELP BLUESTEM FIND HIS WAY HOME!



Answer on the second to last page!

HORSEMANSHIP REWARDS PROGRAM!



JOIN THE KHC
HORSEMANSHIP REWARDS
PROGRAM TODAY!

SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW
TO LEARN MORE!



TURN
SPENDING
TIME WITH
HORSES
INTO
PRIZES!



ANSWER SHEET

ACTIVITY #1 ACTIVITY #2 ACTIVITY #3

- A) American Cream Draft**
 B) Halflinger
 C) Belgian Draft
 D) American Quarter Horse

Make your horses some sweet treats!

Bit - The metal piece that goes in the horse's mouth and helps the rider control it.

ACTIVITY #4 ACTIVITY #5

Coloring Page - create a horse of a different color!

Photo Contest - Submit for a chance to for your picture to be the new cover of June's KHC Kids cover.

Headstall - The main part of the bridle that fits over the horse's head and holds everything together.

Cheek Piece - Attaches the bit to the headstall and runs down the side of the horse's face.

Reins - The leather you hold to guide the horse.

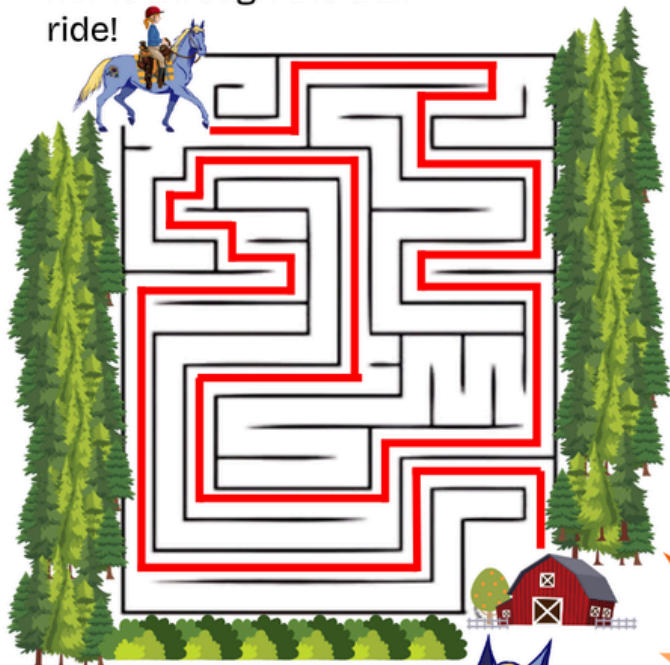
Curb Strap - Connects to the bit and puts pressure under the horse's chin to help with stopping and control.

Browband - A strap that goes across the horse's forehead to keep the bridle in place.

Throatlatch - Helps keep the bridle from slipping off by going under the horse's throat.

ACTIVITY #6

Help Bluestem find his way home through the trail ride!



HOW DID YOU DO?

**HAPPY TRAILS!
UNTIL NEXT
MONTH...**

**BE SURE TO HAVE AN
ADULT FOLLOW US ON
SOCIAL MEDIA TO
STAY UPDATED ON
EVERYTHING KANSAS
HORSE COUNCIL!**

