

LEVEL  
**3**  
READER

# Horses & Ponies



By Sheila Perkins

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Do you know what animal can laugh, wear shoes, sleep standing up, and run almost as soon as it's born?

If you guessed a horse, you are correct!

Humans have been using horses for transportation and work for more than 5,000 years. Today, **domesticated** horses can be found in every part of the world. Mongolia, located between Russia and China, is the only country that still has truly wild horses.





Horses live between 20 and 30 years. A mare, which is a female horse, will carry her foal for about 11 months before giving birth. A foal is a horse that is under one year old. Once it is a few years old, a male foal is called a colt. It will grow to be a stallion. A female foal is called a filly. Once fully grown, it is considered a mare.