



wild dog

**Wild Dog Books  
Teachers' Notes**

Horses CloseUp

## Synopsis

Horses are one of the most useful animals on the planet. They are fast, strong and intelligent, and have been used by humans for thousands of years. In the past they have been used as a crucial means of transport, as well as playing an important role in agriculture and war. Today they are used by the police, for leisure and in a wide range of sports. Take a closer look and learn all about these beautiful mammals.

## Writing style

*Horses Close Up* has been designed with the needs of very early readers and reluctant readers in mind. Text is succinct and simple, with no more than a few sentences on a page. The large format images relate directly to the text, so young readers have multiple entry points to engaging with the information. There is a brief glossary in the back of the book, which will aid young readers in developing the tools of research and analysis.

## Photographic style

The *CloseUp* series uses photographs that bring the viewer close to the subject that is being discussed. These photographs also have the advantage that the image is static, giving the reader the opportunity to explore the image and look at the subject matter and its features in detail. The photographs are also strongly composed and clearly printed with bright strong colours to increase the appeal to visual readers. Readers can explore how photographs are used to convey messages.

## Study notes

Themes:

- Descriptive words
- Breeding
- Animals and their relatives
- Animals and their physiology
- The difference between wild and domesticated animals
- Habitats
- Working relationship between animals and humans
- Reliance on humans

## Curriculum link: Literacy

Before reading *Horses CloseUp*:

- Brainstorm what students know about horses.
- What is their first response when they look at the cover of the book?
- How do they think horses would feel to touch? Would it be safe to touch a horse?
- Ask the students if anyone has seen a horse in the wild, on a farm or at a zoo/museum. What can they recall about their behaviour and appearance?

While reading *Horses CloseUp*:

- Ask the students to take turns reading a paragraph aloud to the rest of the class. Where appropriate, ask the students what they think certain words may mean.
- Ask the students to keep a table list of the features that help horses live in their environment. In one column put the feature and in the second column write how the feature helps the horse.

After reading *Horses CloseUp*:

- Ask the students to reflect on the words they would use to describe horses and the words that have been used in the book. Ask them to draw up a list of words that can be used to describe horses.

## **Curriculum Theme: Critical and Creative Thinking**

After reading *Horses CloseUp* ask the students the following questions:

- Where do horses live?
- What do horses eat?
- What are the defining characteristics of horses?
- What type of animal is a horse?
- Are horses predators or prey? What animals hunt horses?
- What role do horses play in our lives? How do we use them? How might they have been used in the past?
- What are some sports that involve horses?

## **Curriculum link: ICT Capability**

After reading *Horses CloseUp*:

- Organise the class into small groups. Assign each group a different breed of horse (i.e. Arabian, Cydlesdale, Brumby, Thoroughbred, Quarter etc) and ask them to research online and answer the following questions: What are the defining features of that horse? Where are these horses found around the world? What sort of environment do they prefer? What makes them different from other horses? How are they used by humans?
- Ask the children to look for and print images relating to their chosen horse e.g. their colour, their markings, size, whether they are wild or domestic, how they are commonly used etc.
- Ask each group to create a poster collage. Ask them to attach the images they found and to write a short sentence detailing what type of horse it is, how it is used, and what its defining features are. All members of the group then take turns presenting their findings to the rest of the class.

## **Curriculum Theme: Personal and Social Capability**

After reading *Horses CloseUp*:

- Organise the class into three groups. In one group, ask the students to work as a team to construct a word finder puzzle. Ask each student to suggest an appropriate word about horses using words they have learned from the book. (e.g.

herbivore, mustang, mule etc). Once completed, print copies for the other group to complete.

- In the second group, students should work as a team to create a trivia bingo game. Ask each student to suggest a fact they found surprising or interesting. Combine these facts into a game for the whole class.
- In the third group, students should work as a team to develop a crossword puzzle about horses. Use the information featured in the book as clues for appropriate words e.g. molar, saddle, mammal etc.

## Find out more

- <http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/animals/horse.html>
- <http://animals.nationalgeographic.com.au/animals/mammals/horse/>
- <http://www.learn-about-horses.com/>
- <http://www.fun-facts.org.uk/animals/animals-horses.htm>

## Marketing and promotion

*Horses CloseUp* is part of the *CloseUp* series, which includes *Snakes CloseUp*, *Mini-Beasts CloseUp*, *Crocs CloseUp*, *Spiders CloseUp*, *Wolves CloseUp*, *Human Body CloseUp*, *Elephants CloseUp* and *Sharks CloseUp*. The most recent additions to the series are *Butterflies CloseUp* and *Senses CloseUp*. Future titles in the series are planned.