

History of the Horse

The earliest known horses evolved in North America around 55 million years ago. The first ancestral horse was known as the dawn horse and was about the size of a fox. Multiple horse species lived at the same time, often side by side.

Horses migrated from North America across the Bering land bridge to Siberia, and then spread west across Asia to Europe and south to the Middle East and North Africa. However, the horse disappeared from the north American continent around 10,000 years ago. It survived on the European/Asian continent and were brought back to North America by the Spanish in the 1500's.

Wild horses today are products of some 60 million years of evolution. To date, the oldest fossil from the Equus is 3.5 million years old and discovered in Idaho. The horse's closest living relatives are the rhinoceroses and tapirs. Scientists found that the ancestors of modern horses were domesticated in southern Russia. They were bred because of their stress tolerance and back strength.

The horse evolved over the past 45-55 million years from a small multi-toed creature into the large, single-toed animal of today. Humans began domesticating horses around 4000 B.C. Their domestication is believed to have been widespread by 3000 B.C.

Stray horses became known as mustangs, signifying that these animals had no true owner. From the 1600's to the mid 1800's, mustangs ranged throughout the Great Plain in vast herds, numbering in the thousands. The word mustangs came from the Spanish word mesteno, meaning wild. However, studies show that today there is no such thing as a true feral or wild horse, as they inevitably come from a line of domesticated horses.

Horses played a significant role in the exploration and settlement of the United States. An acquisition of a horse changed the culture from hunter-gatherers to buffalo hunters and warriors. During the modern ranching era in the 1950's and 1960's wild horses were considered a nuisance and cattlemen worked to exterminate them. However, the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act mandated the protection of these animals as a "national heritage species". Theodore Roosevelt loved horses, and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park is one of the few parks where visitors can observe free-roaming horses. Though for several years the National Park Service tried to remove all horses from the park, in 1970, a change of park policy recognized the horse

as part of the historical setting. New policies were written and enacted to manage the horses as a historic demonstration herd. However, so sadly, humans still to this day fight the system and horses are currently captured using tranquilizer darts, and sold in online auctions held by the General Services Administration.

The largest horse in recorded history was a Shire horse named Mammoth, who was born in 1848. He stood 21.2 hands high and weighed 3,360 pounds. The smallest horse in recorded history named Thumbelina is a fully mature miniature horse affected by dwarfism. She is 17 inches tall and weighs 57 pounds.

The horse symbolizes healing, both physically and spiritually. In many ancient traditions, the horse was always considered an animal with healing properties. In the spiritual world, the horse is believed to bring invigorating energy to those who feel exhausted or ill.

By connecting with the horse, you tap into its resilience and vitality, that nurtures well-being and relief of stress or anxiety. The message of the horse is to remind us to keep moving forward and do not be afraid to ride into a new direction.

The history of man and horse is one of symbiosis. Horses have served mankind in war, agriculture, travel and many other fields. Even today, the horse remains a mainstay of many cultures and industries. This symbiosis between man and horse is also reflected in the spiritual world. The horse does not look to the past, but always rides into the future, with dignity, strength and courage.

Remember, a horse and a human are not joined by reins, but by trust.

There is something about the outside of a horse that is good for the inside of man.

Winston Churchill

The Horse

The Horse throughout *history* is the symbol of strength and freedom.

The Horse in many *belief systems* is our connection to the universe.

The Horse in many *cultures* is considered to be the luck-bringer.

The Horse in *scripture* represents a preparedness and loyalty to the Lord.

The Horse in *spiritual teachings* reminds us to pursue our dreams, unbridled by the limitations imposed on us by others or ourselves.

The Horse to the *North American Indian* is vital for the survival of the planet, because the hoof of the horse running is the heartbeat of the world.

The Horse in many *religions* is believed to be the vehicle for the Messiahs to return to earth.

The Horse to *Mormons* indicate that the New World Horses have been used to pull chariots for God, as they are the only animal allowed to enter heaven.

The Horse throughout the *Bible* is used in cautionary messages against depending too much on human power and ignoring reliance on God.

The Horse in the *Torah* is considered a spectacular beauty and is forbidden as a food.

The Horse no matter what *deity, God or higher power* one believes in, is considered to be a divine gift for all mankind.

The Horse *metaphorically* figures as a guide for the souls of the departed.

The Horse in *Jewish text* is a symbol of renewal of life force because they dismiss hostility and demand trust.

The Horse in *mythical stories* carries Gods, elevates heroes and transports the sun across the heavens.

The Horse according to *Allah* is said to bring rewards to man, and be a means of protection.

The Horse in *astrology* is said to be higher-spirited, energetic and active.

The Horse in *biblical terms* symbolizes divine judgment and loyalty to God.

The Horse in *Zehchariah* is connected to the chariot of fire that takes Elijah up to heaven.

The Horse in *Bronze Age India* over 4,000 years ago became a deity.

The Horse Goddess is Epona who stands for fertility and protection for mares and foals.

The Horse planet is Mars for vitality and vigor.

The Horse in *dreams* represents the capacity to face challenges and overcome obstacles in waking life.

The Horse in *Greek mythology* is Poseidon, which unites the sea with the horse, hence the seahorse.

The Horse in the *New Testament* comes as four horses, representing conquest, war, famine and death. In the *Old Testament* they represent the sword, famine, wild beasts and pestilence of plague.

The Horse in *Revelation 19:11* John sees Jesus returning on a white horse representing purity and victory.

The Horse in *Psalms* states that God made the great strength of the horse to be recalled as a reminder of the greater strength of God.

The Horse by virtue of *religious studies* represents the Alpha and The Omega, the end and the beginning.

The Horse, as explained through *good trainers* say the horse is always true and never fake it.

The Horse on *Google* is described as indeed intelligent, with abilities that include problem-solving skills, emotional intelligence, memory, and learning. Though their intelligence is different from humans, their intelligence is no less complex or fascinating.

The Horse by the *plan of God* was to be a partner, a companion, a friend, an ally, a helper, an army, a messenger, an engine, a traveler and an expression of God's strength.