



A “Hand”some Horse Bulletin Board!

Purpose: To create a wall display that marks the standard heights for different breeds of horses and ponies. After completing this activity, students will be more familiar with the unit of measurement called “hands” that is used to determine a horse’s height. Students will have also practiced reading rulers and making measurement conversions.

Directions:

1. As a class, figure out the measurement in feet and inches for the following breeds: a Miniature, a Shetland pony, a Morgan, a Quarter horse, a Belgian draft and a Clydesdale. You can visit Oklahoma State University to research different breeds and heights to change up the bulletin board from the way it is presented here. <http://www.ansi.okstate.edu/breeds/horses/>
2. Now mark the measurements on the horse template.
3. After the horses’ heights are marked, students could make their own sign and put it on the wall. On each horse have the student include their name and their height. Height measurements of the students should be converted into the “hands” measurement. Students will be able to compare their height with the different breeds of horses. You could even measure students at the beginning of the year and then at the end to see how much they have grown!

Standard Measurement Ranges:

- ⊖ **Miniature:** measure no more than 34 inches at maturity or 8.5 hands.
- ⊖ **Shetland Pony:** measures an average of 9.3 hands and does not exceed 10.2 hands.
- ⊖ **Morgan:** measure between 14.2-15.2 hands.
- ⊖ **Quarter Horse:** measure between 14.2 hands to 16+ hands.
- ⊖ **Belgian Draft:** measure between 15.2 to 16 hands.
- ⊖ **Clydesdale:** measure between 16.2 to 18 hands

Horse template

