

Greetings! Here are some fun and age-and time-appropriate Zoo-phonics activities for a “stay-at-home” day! If a letter is underlined below, please Signal it as you pronounce the sound in the word.

- 1) **Letter Shapes, Signals and Sounds:** Look at honey horse’s and willie weasel’s Animal Alphabet Cards. They will be our “pals” today.



- a) Together, Signal and sound **honey horse’s Animal Letter**. Say the sound: /h/. Gallop around the room as you Signal and sound.



- b) Together, Signal and sound **willie weasel’s Animal Letter**. Say the sound: /w/. Run around the room as you Signal and sound.

- 2) Today’s **Magic Words** will be “**hand washing**” because we need to learn how to do it properly!

Go into the bathroom or kitchen and use soap to wash your hands! Count to 30 or count to 10 three times with your child depending on his/her age and counting ability. Wash the bottoms and tops of your hands. Don’t forget your nails!

- 3) **Exercise and Math:** honey horse is the 8th letter in the alphabet. Jump in place 8 times and count as you jump. willie weasel is the 23rd letter in the alphabet. Jump in place (Pant! Pant!) 23 times and count as you jump! (Can you count in another language? Try it!)
- 4) **Practice Printing:** On a plate, fill it with flour, sugar, dry Jello®, shaving cream, whipped cream or salt. Your child will use his/her index finger to draw the “**h**” and the “**w**” in the medium (one at a time). Use the “h” and “w” Letter Cards to show the shapes of the letters. You can trace the letter first and have him/her trace on top of your letter, or, your child can give it a try all by him or herself! Don’t forget to Signal and sound as your child forms the letters.
- 5) **Use Technology:** If you can, google “horses” and “weasels” and learn a little about them! They are both mammals. honey horse eats hay and willie weasel eats meat. honey horse is domesticated and willie weasel is undomesticated or wild.

GREAT JOB! You just did letter shapes, Signals and sounds; some exercise; hand washing; letter formation; and learned about our animals through technology!

Horse

CLASSIFICATION: Mammal

SIZE: The smallest is 30 inches tall and the largest (a sire) more than 68 inches at the shoulder and can weigh 2000 lbs.

HABITAT: Grasslands.

BREEDING: The female (a mare) gives birth to a single foal. Breeding horses involves a larger investment for a longer time than does breeding other classes of livestock. Breeding age of mares is 2-3 years and gestation is 336 days. Mare's milk is high in fat, protein and minerals.

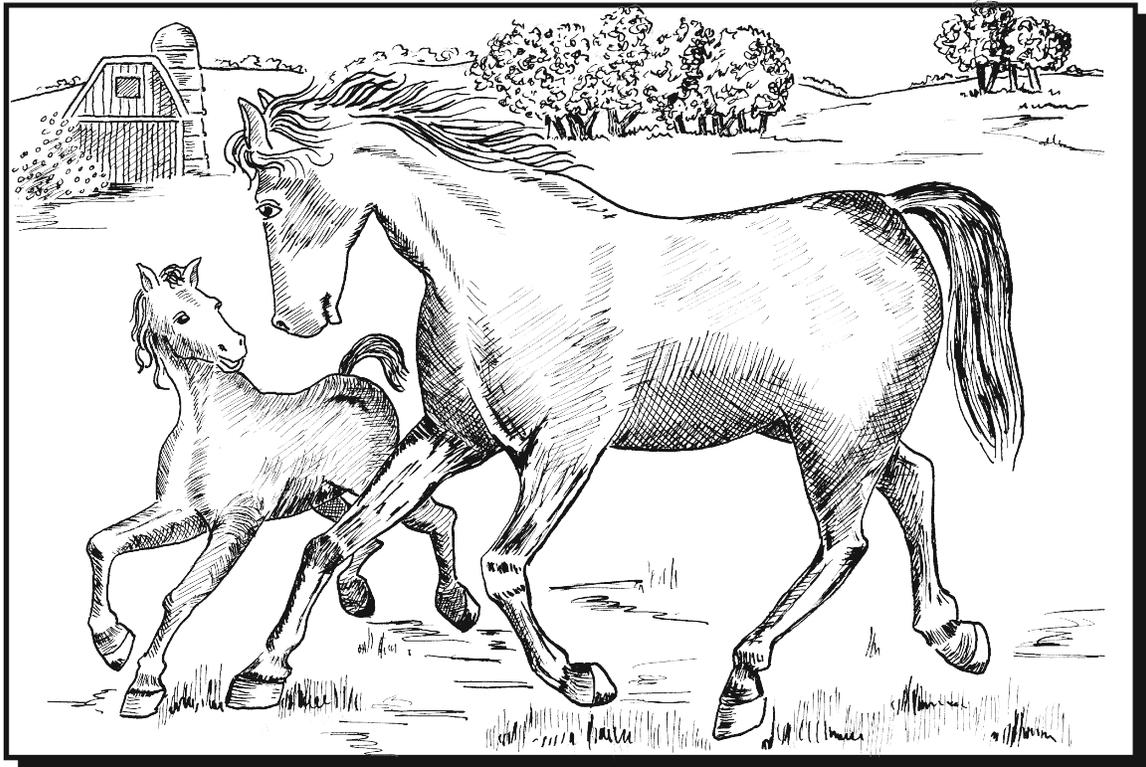
DIET: Horses eat grain and plants – never meat. However, they do have very strong teeth. They have small stomachs for their size so they eat often.

DISTRIBUTION: Worldwide.



DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND INTERESTING FACTS

Horses have a good sense of smell, sharp ears and keen eyes. Their long, muscular legs give them the strength to pull heavy loads and run fast. Because they have good memories they can be easily trained and in the past have provided the fastest and surest way to travel on land. It is believed that horses have been domesticated since 2,000 B.C.



Weasel

CLASSIFICATION: Mammal

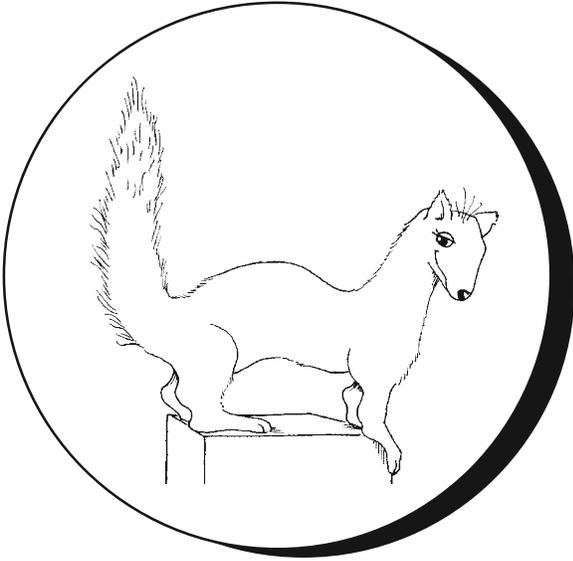
SIZE: The North American common long-tailed weasel, like our willie weasel, is 12-18 inches long including its tail. It weighs up to 12 ounces. There are other kinds of weasels that are larger. The male may be twice as big as the female.

HABITAT: Rock piles, under tree stumps or in abandoned rodent burrows.

BREEDING: Six to eight young are born in the spring and soon equal their parents in size.

DIET: Mice, squirrels and other rodents. They also eat earthworms, frogs, lizards, rabbits, snakes, small birds and chickens. They have a sharp sense of smell, keen sight and are excellent hunters because they can move very fast.

DISTRIBUTION: There are weasels on every continent except Australia and Antarctica.



DISTINCTIVE FEATURES AND INTERESTING FACTS

Most weasels have brown or reddish brown fur on the back and sides and white or yellow fur on the underside. In winter, in cold climates, the weasel changes its fur to white and is called an ermine.

