

ACTIVITY

The Measure of a Miniature Horse

According to breed standards, the withers of an adult miniature horse are to not exceed 34 inches in height, which would make it about the size of a large dog. The miniature horse has a pleasing personality, and is often used in competition events like driving, jumping, obstacles, and halter showing. In the following activity, a stick model of a miniature horse will be made out of paper.

Objective: To make a paper stick model of a miniature horse

Time: 45 minutes

Materials: Miniature horse picture; full newspaper stack (or brown packaging paper); masking tape; markers; yarn; scissors

Saddle Up: Did you know that Great Danes and Miniature Horses have something in common? Well, they do. As adults, they are just about the same height and not well suited for riding. Okay, enough about dogs. Stand a wooden yardstick upright and make a mark at the 34 inch line. The adult Miniature Horses shouldn't exceed this mark (34 inches) in height in order to be registered. In the horse world, Miniature Horses are very unique and CAN be used and enjoyed much like full-grown horses. Use your noggin to think of ways that Miniature and full-size horses are alike and different. In the following activity, paper will be used to build a small-scale Miniature Horse.

For a group, each group will need 1 roll of masking tape and enough newspaper (5-2 page sections with a fold) to make five tubes. Follow these steps to build a paper stick horse frame:

- With newspaper section flat (2 pages with fold), begin rolling one corner until a tube is made. Roll and tape 5 tubes.
- Fold 2 tubes in half to make "V" frames for the front and back legs.
- Attach folded point of "V" frames to backbone tube. Tape and secure.
- Fold another tube into a "V" for the neck. Attach and secure open end with tape to "withers," leaving the folded point at the top.
- Fold another "V" and attach to neck for head. The open end will be the ears.
- Cut, tie, and attach yarn mane and tail.
- Don't forget to name your Miniature Horse(s). Option: Add color by painting body, markings, hooves, nose, eyes, etc.

Trail Talk: Name other animals that are about this same height as the Miniature Horse. What other animals have alike characteristics as the Miniature Horse (four legs, single hooves, herbivore, etc.)

Ride Further: Interesting facts about a horse's natural instincts:

- Horses are naturally friendly animals.
- Horses have a natural instinct to bond with other horses.
- Wild horses feel safer living in a herd.
- A dominant stallion will protect and breed with several mares in his herd.
- Horses show affection to other horses by grooming each other.
- Most of the time, horses stand close to one another while grazing.
- Horses communicate with each other with body language like moving ears, swishing tails, and using their voices.
- Horses sleep standing up. But for those horses lying down, there are usually other horses close by standing guard.

McREL National Standards:

- ❖ **Language Arts** (Standard 7, Level III) Uses reading skills and strategies to understand and interpret a variety of informational texts: Uses new information to adjust and extend personal knowledge base
- ❖ **Science** (Standard 4, Level III) Understands the principles of heredity and related concepts: Knows that reproduction is characteristic of all living things and is essential to

the continuation of a species

- ❖ **Life Skills- Self-Regulation** (Standard 1, Level IV) Sets and manages goals: Displays a sense of personal direction and purpose
- ❖ **Visual Arts** (Standard 2, Level II) Knows how to use structures and functions of art: Uses visual structures and functions of art to communicate ideas
- ❖ **Technology**
 - (Standard 2, Level I) Knows the characteristics and uses of computer software programs: Uses menu options and commands
 - (Standard 6, Level II) Understands the uses and different forms of technology: Knows that technology facilitates better communication by providing storage and retrieval of large amounts of data, an easy means of accessing data, a means of processing and displaying data, and faster communication skills among individuals