

Name _____ *Find the Meaning of New Words*



How to Say “Hi” to a Horse

DIRECTIONS: Circle the best meaning for each underlined word from the passage. Then write the clues from the passage that helped you choose the correct meaning.

1. **Inquire** means: A. inform B. ask

CLUES: _____

2. **Temperament** means: A. personality B. temper

CLUES: _____

3. **Interact** means: A. socialize B. entertain

CLUES: _____

4. **Approach** means: A. walk away from B. go up to

CLUES: _____

5. **Present** means: A. raise B. give

CLUES: _____

6. **Confirm**: A. make sure B. argue

CLUES: _____

Before getting close to a horse, inquire about the horse’s temperament, and whether or not it is okay for you to interact with the horse. Horses don’t like to be sneaked up on, so if it is all right for you to pet the horse, approach the horse from the front so that he can see you coming. If you try to approach from behind the horse you may startle him and get kicked.

You can tell how a horse is feeling by looking at his ears. If the horse’s ears are flattened against his head, this means that he doesn’t like you, or that something going on nearby is upsetting him. Horses will usually flatten their ears against their heads before they bite you. If the horse’s ears are relaxed, and not pointed at you, the horse is probably in a fine mood, even though he isn’t paying much attention to you. If the horse’s ears are up and pointed towards you it means that you have the horse’s attention. If you are going to interact with the horse, this is the best time to do it. First present your hand to the horse so that he can smell you. If he touches your hand with his nose, the horse is telling you that it is okay to pet him. If he turns away from you he may still accept pets, but definitely confirm again with the handler that it is okay to pet the horse.

A horse that looks at you and sniffs you is interested in you. Make friends with him by giving him a good scratch on the neck.