

Horses of the North American West

Answer Key

The online exhibition, Horses in the North American West, features the research of Dr. William Taylor, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, and Curator of Archaeology at the University of Colorado Museum of Natural History. Visit the exhibit online and use the questions below to guide your exploration.

Exhibit Introduction

- The study of (horse equipment) and (ancient animal bones) allows us to understand the ways horses influenced human history.

Native Voices

Watch and listen carefully to each interview conducted by University of Colorado Ph.D. candidate Carlton Quinn Shield Chief Gover. Answer the following questions for each video.

Horses in Pueblo History and Culture

(Christopher Chavez, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Santo Domingo Pueblo, New Mexico)

- What group introduced horses to the American Southwest?
 - (The Spanish)
- When horses were accepted in Pueblo communities, what did they come to spiritually symbolize in Pueblo culture?
 - (Clouds, rain and goodwill)
- List two ways we know horses are respected in Pueblo communities?
 - (Possible answers: Considered community members, given Native names, given ceremonial burials)



Horses in Ioway History and Culture

(Lance Foster, Vice-Chairman and Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Ioway Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska)

- In the Ioway story “Two-Legged Creature,” who is the “Two-legged Creature?”
 - (Man)
- In the Ioway story “Two-Legged Creature,” how do the animals view man?
 - (Possible answers: Annoying, Childish, Helpless, etc.)
- In the Ioway story “Two-Legged Creature,” which animals volunteer to stay with man as companions and guardians?
 - (Dog and horse)

Horses in Pawnee History and Culture

(Matt Reed, Historic Preservation Officer, Pawnee Nation)

- Horses are very important in Pawnee culture. As described in the video, what are the Pawnee known for, in relation to horses?
 - (Capturing, or taking horses from others)
- In the Pawnee story about the Man finding the first horse, which of the horse’s body parts is incorporated into the “Doctor Dance” ceremony after its death?
 - (The tail)
- List three important changes in Pawnee culture caused by the introduction of the horse.
 - (Possible answers: They could carry more weight/meat; the size of the teepees increased; and there was an increase the amount of materials they could keep, changed their names to reflect horsemanship)

Interactive 3D Models

Investigate each 3D model. Use your mouse to turn the models around and look at them from multiple angles. Click on the numbers to read additional facts about the specimen or object. Scroll down to find a summary of the model contents. Answer the following questions after exploring the interactive elements.



- Name the two types of bridles found in the 3D models. What cultures does the Navajo bridle take elements from?
 - (rawhide rope and Spanish-style ring bit. Mexican, Spanish and Arabian)
- List three ways Mesohippus was different from modern domestic horses.
 - (Smaller size, three-toed, differently shaped teeth)

Word Search Answer Key

