Family Times

Summary

Horse Heroes

Horses have played a major role in human history. They have done important work for us, such as delivering packages before the days of trains and automobiles. Horses have been our companions, joining us on adventures through dangerous lands. When movies were invented, horses became stars of the screen, entertaining us



as four-legged actors. Some horses and their riders have made such a mark on our history, their names will be remembered for years to come.

Activity

Ask your family members how they think life would be different if you had to depend on a horse for all your travel. Make a list of the ways using a horse, and taking care of one, would change your day-to-day activities.

Comprehension Skill

Fact and Opinion

A **statement of fact** can be proved true or false. A **statement of opinion** cannot be proved true or false, because it expresses a belief or a judgment.

Activity

That's Your Opinion Read a short article aloud together. After every statement, stop to discuss whether it is a statement of fact or opinion. If it is a statement of fact, discuss what sources you could use to prove the statement true or false.

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Lesson Vocabulary

Words to Know

Knowing the meaning of these words is important to reading *Horse Heroes*. Practice using these words.

Vocabulary Words

ambition strong desire to achieve; will to succeed

infested covered by something harmful or offensive

landslide the rapid slipping of a relatively dry mass of earth and rock

quicksand a bog of very deep, wet sand that sucks down objects, people, or animals

resistance the act of working against or actively opposing or withstanding

rickety likely to break or fall apart; shaky

roamed moved or traveled without purpose or plan

vast very great in size

Conventions

Singular Possessive Nouns

A **singular possessive noun** is a singular noun that shows ownership. For example: Lisa's shoes are green. The dog's ears are floppy. "Lisa's" and "dog's" are singular possessive nouns. Singular possessive nouns are formed by adding –'s to the end of the noun. It does not matter whether or not the noun already ends in s. For example: the table's legs, Tess's toy.

Activity

Whose Is This? Together, take a walk around your house. Point to items that belong to a certain member of the family. In a notebook, fill in the following sentence for each item you see: The ____ is ____. For example: The book is Kari's.

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