



WHAT SHOULD NEW FOREST PONIES EAT?

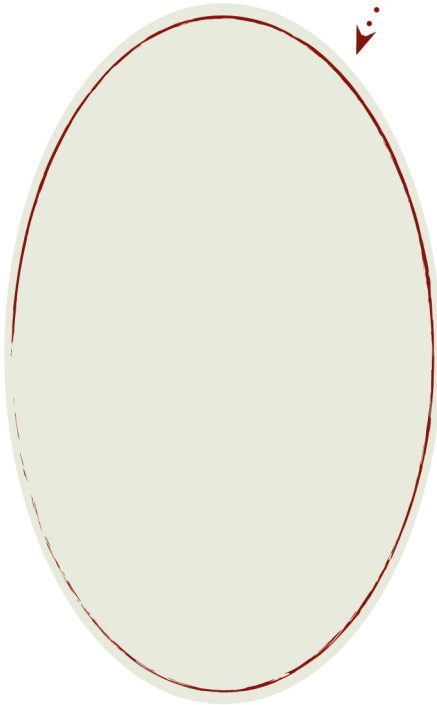


DRAW A LINE TO THE CORRECT ANSWER

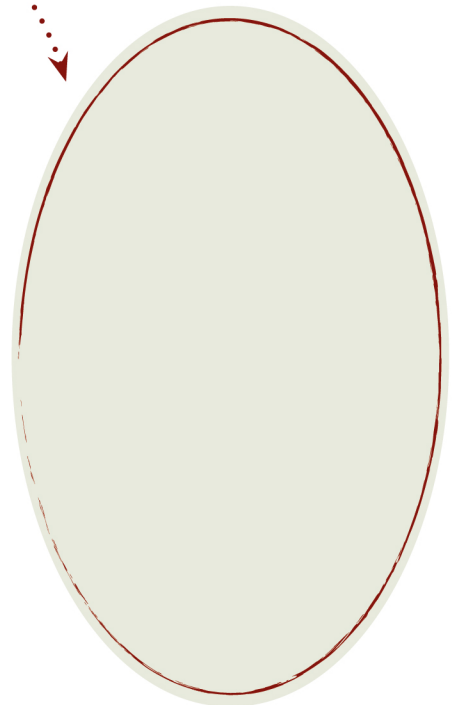


GOOD FOR PONIES LIVING
IN THE NEW FOREST

BAD FOR PONIES LIVING
IN THE NEW FOREST



- GORSE
- SANDWICH
- CARROT
- GRASS
- HAY
- STRAW
- APPLE
- PONY MIX
- CRISPS
- HOLLY
- HEATHER
- BARK
- LAWNMOWER CLIPPINGS
- GARDEN WASTE
- WILD FLOWERS



WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO YOUR FRIEND IF YOU SAW THEM
FEEDING A PONY OR A DONKEY ON THE NEW FOREST?



ROLE PLAY SCENARIOS



A family are visiting the New Forest for the first time.

They arrive after a long journey and find a car park.

They don't notice the sign telling them not to feed the ponies or the sign pointing to the safe fenced picnic area.

The children get the football out and start to have a kick about.

Mum and Dad busy themselves setting up the picnic near the car.

No-one notices the ponies creeping out of the bushes.

Suddenly the children spot the ponies.

They are used to feeding the ducks at their local park and they think it will be fun to feed the ponies.

The children grab some bread and start to feed the ponies. One or two ponies are quite friendly and don't mind the children stroking them.

All of a sudden one of the ponies kicks out at another pony because it is jealous.

The ponies start to jump about and kick and fight.



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

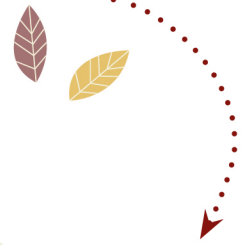
1. The children quickly move out of the way.
2. One of the children is badly kicked.
3. Dad is bitten by a pony whilst trying to get the kids out of the way.
4. The picnic is trampled and ruined.
5. A ranger comes over to warn the family of the dangers.



NEW FOREST
**COMMONING
CHAMPION
BADGE**



ROLE PLAY SCENARIOS



ALTERNATIVE VERSION

Repeat the exercise, but this time encourage the children to think of how the family could ensure they have a really good day by choosing a more suitable location for their picnic.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?



1. Read the signs which say don't feed the ponies
2. Use the fenced picnic area
3. Keep a safe distance from the ponies- at least two metres
4. Move away if the ponies come too close
5. Ask the ranger about the ponies
6. You see another family feeding the ponies and explain to them why it is a bad idea.



NEW FOREST
**COMMONING
CHAMPION
BADGE**



WHAT SHOULD NEW FOREST PONIES EAT?

- TEACHERS NOTES

Thousands of visitors come to the New Forest every year. Some come specifically to feed the ponies. This causes significant problems for both the ponies and their owners. Feeding animals trains them, just as you train a dog to sit with a treat, New Forest visitors train ponies to stand in the roads and in the car parks by feeding them. This puts both the visitors and ponies at risk. Ponies can become aggressive and kick or bite. They are also at increased risk from traffic.

New Forest commoners are working hard with the Forestry Commission and National Park Authority to educate visitors including those who visit daily.

Here are some additional ideas you could explore with your pupils. Our learning about Behaviour Change shows us that simply telling someone not to do something rarely results in the desired behaviour. Instead we need to build a culture of 'normal behaviour'.

- Write a persuasive letter explaining why feeding ponies is a bad idea. This could be aimed at visitors, the National Park Authority or Forestry Commission Rangers.
- Create an infographic postcard to share the key messages.
- Read the story of Sally the Pony. Encourage the children to write their own stories to teach their peers about the special life New Forest ponies lead and why they shouldn't feed them.
- Commoners animals are a very important part of the New Forest ecosystem – their grazing helps to preserve a very low sward of grass which allows many rare and special plants to grow and the associated insect and bird life to thrive. When ponies come to expect food they wait in the feeding hotspots, preventing them from feeding on their natural diet.

