

The Kentucky Derby



Lapbook

Kentucky Derby Unit and Lapbook

Unit by Marcy Crabtree

Lapbook by Ami Brainerd

Kentucky Derby

The Kentucky Derby is a horse race for 3-year-old Thoroughbred horses, which takes place in at Churchill Downs in Louisville, KY every first Saturday in May. It is the oldest continuous sporting event in the U.S and was first held on May 17, 1875.

This year (2012) will be the 138th running.

Only 20 thoroughbreds can run in the Kentucky Derby.

The Kentucky Derby race is 1 ¼ mile long or 10 furlongs.

The Kentucky Derby is known as “the greatest 2 minutes in sports.”

Only 3 fillies have ever won the Kentucky Derby.

Also known as the “Run for the Roses,” the winning jockey receives a bouquet of red roses and a large garland of roses is draped over the horse’s shoulders. Each of the garland’s 500 red roses are placed in their own little vial of water and sewn individually onto a green satin blanket. The winning team receives a gold trophy with a horseshoe facing upward, as a symbol for good luck.

[Take a virtual field trip to the Kentucky Derby](#)

Book List

Derby Day: A Pop-Up Celebration of the Kentucky Derby by Pamela Pease

Little Freddie at the Kentucky Derby by Kathryn Cocquyt

Lapbook

Complete "Derby Facts" shutterfold.

Complete math problem ("The first Kentucky Derby was held in 1875...").

Geography

Kentucky

Kentucky's mild climate, plentiful water, soil rich in limestone and calcium, and gently rolling hills of plush Bluegrass, make Kentucky the perfect place to raise thoroughbreds. As the horses graze, they take in the minerals from the soil which help build strong bones and muscles.

The state capital of Kentucky is Frankfort. Located on the Kentucky River, it was on one of the great buffalo trails that served settlers as early highways. The first explorers began visiting Frankfort in the 1750s. The city was named by shortening "Frank's Ford," after Stephen Frank, a settler who was killed there in an Indian skirmish in 1780. In 1786, the Virginia legislature (Kentucky was still a part of Virginia at that time) designated 100 acres of land owned by General James Wilkinson as the town of Frankfort.

Kentucky statehood followed in 1792, and Frankfort outbid other towns (including Lexington) to become the capital of the new state. The first statehouse was built by 1794, but it burned in 1813. The next capitol building was completed in 1816 and burned in 1824. Finally, what is now known as the "Old Capitol" was finished in 1830 and would remain the state's capitol building for the next 80 years.

Lexington, KY is the horse capital of the world. It is home to vast numbers of horse farms, and the world-renowned Kentucky Horse Park. If you happen to live anywhere near Lexington or will be passing through, the Kentucky Horse Park is a must see!

Lapbook

Complete "Why is the derby in Kentucky" minit book.

Mark cities on the map of Kentucky.

Complete "Kentucky" tab book.

Louisville

Louisville is the largest city in Kentucky and located on the Falls of the Ohio River.

Louisville was founded by George Rogers Clark in 1778 and named for King Louis XVI of France.

Louisville is well known not only for the Kentucky Derby, but also for the [Louisville Slugger baseball bat and museum](#) , [The Frazier History Museum](#), and it's beautiful Metro Parks system designed by Olmstead, who also designed Central Park in NYC.

Louisville's First Town Charter was signed in 1780 by Thomas Jefferson, Governor of Virginia.

Zachary Taylor (1784-1850), 12th President of the U.S., grew up in Louisville and is buried in Zachary Taylor National Cemetery on Brownsboro Road.

The symbol of Louisville is the fleur de lis. Fleur de lis is a French word meaning "lily flower." The fleur-de-lis represents French aid given during the Revolutionary War

Lapbook

Complete "Louisville Facts" accordion book.

Churchill Downs

Churchill Downs, located in Louisville, is the home of the Kentucky Derby. It has an interesting history. Kentucky horse farms prospered until the Civil War in the 1860s. Armies in both north and south looked to Kentucky to supply horses to both the north and south and many of those horses died in the war battles. A few prized stallions and mares were hidden and survived the war, which allowed the thoroughbred line to continue. After the war, horse farms in Kentucky began to rebuild. It was at this time that a new racetrack was built in nearby Louisville, a popular steamboat port on the Ohio River.

This racetrack originally named "The Jockey Club, but was eventually renamed "Churchill Downs," after two brothers, John and Henry Churchill, who owned the land on which it was built.

The two most famous races run at Churchill Downs are The Kentucky Derby and The Kentucky Oaks, modeled after two English races, The Epsom Derby and the Epsom Oaks.

The “twin spires” of Churchill Downs were added 20 years after it originally opened and are now seen as the symbol of both the track and the Kentucky Derby.

Lapbook

Complete "Churchill Downs" tri-fold book.

Science

Thoroughbred Horse

Every Thoroughbred breed horse is descended from one of three Arab stallions brought to England over 300 years ago: The Goldolphin Arabian, Byerly Turk, and Darley Arabian.

Average Weight: 1000 lbs.

Height: 16 hands on average with a range of 15.2-17 hands

Run: 40 mph

Stride: reaches between 20 to 25 feet

Thoroughbreds are, on average, 16 hands high. A hand is approximately 4 inches. How tall is your child in hands? What about dad? Have your child measure things around the house in inches and then convert into hands.

A Thoroughbred has a stride of between 20-25 feet. That's the length of 4 people lying in a straight line head-to-toe. Gather 4 people together and have them do just that to show your children exactly how amazing that is! And measure your child's stride to compare!

Thoroughbred horses have a sleek body type, with sloped shoulders, muscular hind quarters and a deep chest. These attributes give them a long stride, fast speed,

and room for a strong heart and lungs. These characteristics, along with their bold and spirited temperament make them excellent racehorses.

Thoroughbreds are purchased as yearlings, usually presented at auctions in late summer and early fall. After the horse is purchased, it is given its name, which usually relates to its pedigree in some way. The name must be registered with an organization called the Jockey Club, contain fewer than 18 characters, and cannot be the same as any of the over 400,000 names in active use. Every thoroughbred also has another way of being identified—a small tattoo of letters and numbers on the inside of its upper lip. There are many other rules about naming a Thoroughbred.

Racing begins at age 2; traveling around the country to run in race meets of increasing difficulty. At age 3, thoroughbreds are usually entered in a series of “prep races” to prepare them for the running of the Kentucky Derby.

Every thoroughbred has an “official birthday” of January 1, but may actually be born anytime in the spring months.

Vocabulary: The Horse and Its Family

Stallion: adult male horse

Mare: adult female horse

Sire: a horse’s father

Dam: a horse’s mother

Foal: a baby horse in its first year of life

Yearling: A horse from its first official birthday on January 1st to the following January 1st

Colt: a male horse less than 5 years-old

Filly: a female horse less than 5 years-old

Lapbook

Complete "Thoroughbred" fan

Complete "What Makes a Good Racehorse?" shape book

Complete the notebook page about naming a horse

Learn more about horse anatomy with this printout from Enchanted Learning

Using the book *1-2-3 Draw Horses* by Freddie Levin, have your child learn how to draw the Thoroughbred.

Complete "What's in a Name?" flapbook.

Social Studies

Vocabulary: The Thoroughbred Team

It takes an entire team of professionals to care for and train racehorses. You might be surprised to find out how much work it takes to get horses read for racing. Here are the key players:

Trainer: The trainer is hired by the horse's owner to oversee the team of people who will work with and take care of the horse every day. He or she plans his diet, exercise routine, and the rest of his care, as well as decides which races he will run in and which jockey will work best with the horse.

Groom: The groom takes care of the horses daily needs, keeps his stall clean and comfortable, feeds and waters the horse, and keeps him warm on chilly nights by placing a blanket over him. He also bathes, brushes the horse and wraps his delicate legs for support and protection. The groom also makes sure the horse's equipment is in good repair.

Exercise Rider: Every morning, the exercise rider gallops the horse around the track for its daily workout.

Hotwalker: After the horse's morning workout, the hotwalker leads the horse on a walking trail. Hotwalking cools the horse down after it exercises and before it's returned to its stall.

Veterinarian: The doctor who takes care of the horse's health is called a veterinarian. The vet does physical and dental check-ups, gives regular vaccinations, and provides medical treatment if the horse becomes injured or ill.

Farrier: also called a blacksmith. The farrier cares for the horse's hooves, trims and files hooves every 4-6 weeks, and shapes aluminum shoes over an open fire to fit the hooves of each individual horse.

Jockey: The jockey is the person who rides the horse during a race.

Lapbook

Complete "The Thoroughbred Team" matchbooks and make a cover book for them

The Jockey

Jockeys must have good balance, a great sense of timing and lots of courage. Their ability to handle a horse can determine whether or not they win a race. The conditions of the track can change quickly and the jockey must be able to react quickly in order to win and stay safe. Jockeys are small because the horses can run faster carrying less weight. Every horse carries the same amount of weight during a race. If need be, weights can be added to balance that out.

Until the end of the 19th century, jockeys sat upright on their horses. Then one day a jockey named Tod Sloan, nicknamed "Toad" because of his unusually short legs, began hitching up his stirrups when he rode, which caused his weight to move forward on his horse, placing his weight over the horse's center of gravity. This position gives the jockey better balance and less wind resistance when the horse is racing. This position is now the standard for all jockeys.

Jockeys wear jerseys and caps, called "silks," with certain colors and designs to identify the horse's owner. The idea of "racing silks" originated hundreds of years ago to make it easier to identify a horse and rider from a distance. You're likely to see all kinds of shapes: stripes, diamonds, checkerboards, and spots, and colors: bright yellow, red, green, pink, white, purple, blue, and black. The jockeys also wear a helmet and safety vest underneath their silks to help protect them in case of a fall. White riding breeches are also worn, tucked into tall leather racing boots,

as well as goggles to shield the jockey's eyes from the splash of mud from the racetrack.

What does it mean to have courage? Have your child look up courage or courageous in his dictionary. Use the following verse for memory work or copywork:

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." Deut. 31:6

Lapbook

Complete "What Makes a Good Jockey" t-book

Complete "Riding Position" simple fold

Complete "Design Your Own Silks" page

The Kentucky Derby Festival

Every year, to kick-off the Kentucky Derby season, the city of Louisville goes into celebration mode. For the 2 weeks prior to Derby day, the festivities abound. Here are some of the most popularly attended:

Thunder Over Louisville: Opening ceremonies for the Kentucky Derby Festival take place 2 weeks before the Derby. The world's largest fireworks show, Thunder Over Louisville, kicks off the festival in downtown Louisville along the banks of the Ohio River.

Great Balloon Race: One week before the Kentucky Derby, the skies fill with the color of over hot-air balloons, all in search for where the "x" marks the spot and they can drop the winning bean bag. Just as popular is the balloon glow the night before the big race, where you can walk around the filled balloons and talk to the pilots.

The Great Steamboat Race: Since 1963, this 14-mile race has taken place the Wednesday before the Derby on the Ohio River, between The Belle of Louisville and The Delta Queen from New Orleans. In 2009, the Belle began racing The Belle

of Cincinnati when The Delta Queen was forced to dock permanently at the end of the 2008 season. You can now find the Delta Queen in Chattanooga, TN, where it is a hotel. The coveted prize? A set of elk antlers, spray-painted gold!

Pegasus Parade: The Pegasus Parade takes place the Thursday before the Derby, marching through downtown Louisville in honor of the winged horse from Greek Mythology. A Royal Court of Derby Princesses wave as crowds enjoy colorful floats, marching bands, inflatable balloons and equestrians.

Kentucky Oaks: this horse race, for 3-yr-old fillies, runs the Friday before the Derby at Churchill Downs. The horses compete for a silver trophy and a garland of stargazer lilies. Also known as the “Run for the Lilies.”

Lapbook

Complete "Derby Festival" simple fold

Derby Traditions

My Old Kentucky Home (words and music by Stephen Foster) is the state song of Kentucky. It is sung as the thoroughbreds parade by the grandstand, spectators join in singing as the University of Louisville Cardinal marching band plays.

Look up the lyrics and music and listen to the song.

Kentucky Derby Hats

Did you realize the Kentucky Derby was also a hat-fashion show? Women are known for wearing pretty dresses paired with oversized, elaborate hats. You might even see a hat with a horse and stable glued to the top!

[Take a peek at some Derby hats](#)

Lapbook

Design your own Kentucky Derby hat.

Recipes

Of course food is part of the celebration! A few favorites include: Kentucky Hot Brown, Kentucky Derby Pie, Kentucky Burgoo, and Benedictine spread. Try some of these with your student (some recipes are included in the lapbook file).

Lapbook

Add recipe cards and pocket to your lapbook.

The Triple Crown

Most Kentucky Derby winners go on to compete in two other races, which, together with the Derby, represent the ultimate challenge in the sport of horse racing, known as The Triple Crown:

The Kentucky Derby—1 ¼ mile race held on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs in Kentucky

The Preakness—1 3/16-mile race held in mid-May at Pimlico Racetrack in Maryland

The Belmont—1 ½ mile race held in June at Belmont park in New York

Only 11 horses have won the Triple Crown, the last was being “Affirmed” in 1978.

Secretariat

Perhaps one of the most famous Kentucky Derby winners, Secretariat holds the record for fastest Kentucky Derby at 1:59.40 minutes and fastest Belmont Stakes at 2:24 minutes. He also won the Triple Crown in 1978. He was nicknamed “Big Red” due to his size (16 hands, 2 inches and 1175 lbs.) and his color, a beautiful chestnut red. Secretariat was born March 30, 1970 and died October 4, 1989.

Lapbook

Complete "Triple Crown" tri-fold.

Make your own horse trading cards with the template and pocket provided

Language Arts

Kentucky Derby Vocabulary

backside: area away from the grandstand side of the track, usually where the stables are located. It often includes sleeping rooms, a kitchen and recreation areas for stable employees.

bit: a bar that goes in the horse's mouth that allows the jockey or rider to have control over the horse, usually made of stainless steel, rubber or aluminum.

blinkers: a cup-shaped piece of equipment that limits the horse's vision, especially to the sides. It fits over the horse's head.

bridle: a piece of equipment that fits on a horse's head, the bit and the reins are attached.

furlong: an eighth of a mile on the racetrack.

gait: the four natural ways a horse moves: walk, trot, canter and gallop.

grandstand: area of the racetrack where people sit to watch the races.

halter: like a bridle, but without a bit attached; used to lead the horse around.

hand: the unit of measure for the height of a horse; a hand is four inches.

paddock: area of the racetrack where the horses are saddled before the race; where the jockey mounts the horse.

post position: the place in the starting gate from which a horse starts the race.

reins: long straps that are connected to the bit, allowing the jockey to control the horse.

silks: the jacket and cap worn by a jockey in a race, they indicate who owns the horse.

stewards: the name for the judges at the racetrack, there are usually three.

stirrups: metal D-shaped rings that hang from the saddle, into which a jockey or rider places his or her feet.

tack: the rider's racing equipment. The tack room is where the equipment is kept.

Thoroughbred: a breed of horse created in England in the early to mid-1700s, the only one bred solely for speed.

track condition: what the racing surface is like because of weather: fast, slow, sloppy, muddy, heavy, or frozen. Horses will often run differently depending on the track condition.

turf: a racetrack that is grass instead of dirt or sand. Some horses run better on turf.

Lapbook

Complete "New Words" mini-book

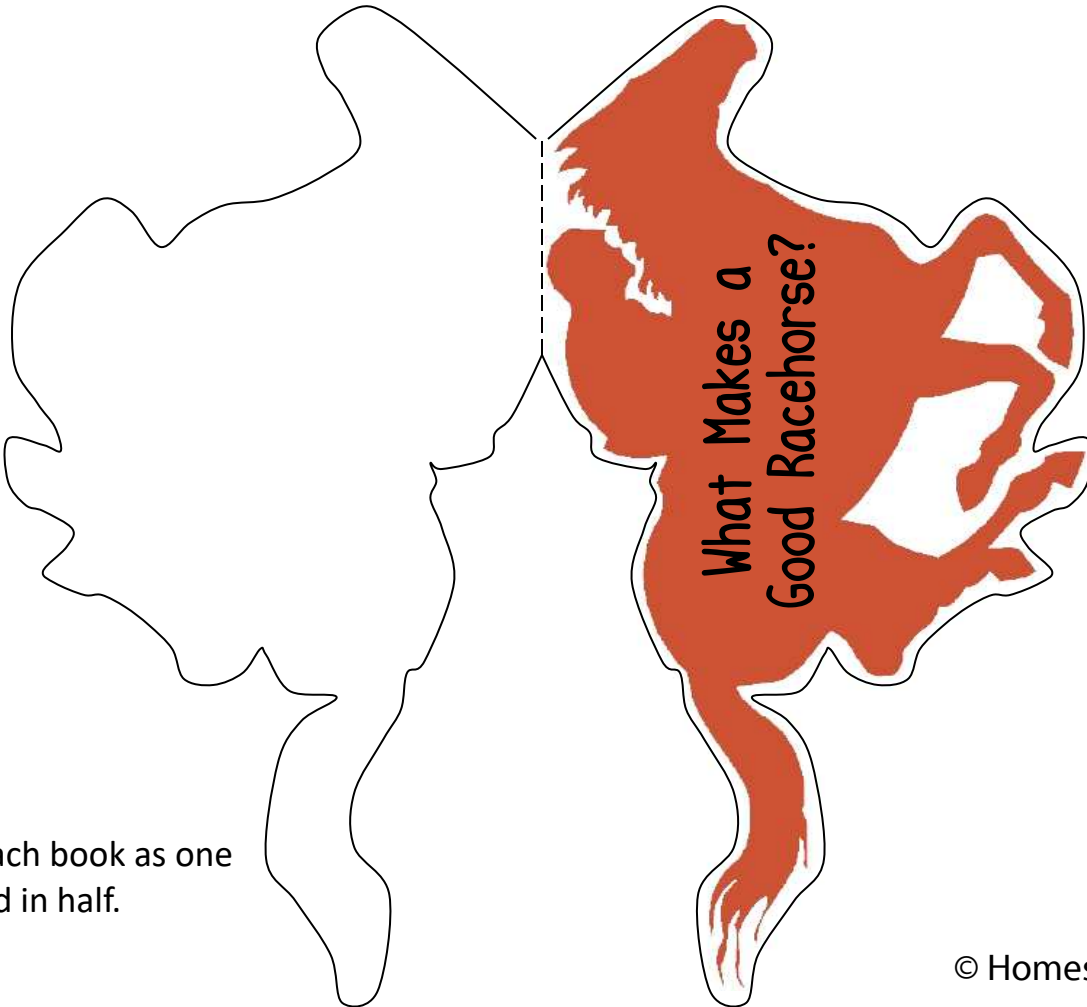
Lapbook Font Credit: [Barefoot Fonts](#)

Clipart Credit: Clipart.com

Materials and information on this website may be used for your own personal and school use. **Material may not be shared electronically or be used for resale.**

© Homeschool Share

Cut out each book as one piece. Fold in half.



Why is the derby in
Kentucky?

Cut strips out as one piece (one on this page, one on the next). Glue as indicated. Fold like an accordion. Paste the back of the last piece to your lapbook.

Add glue here and stick to the back of the second strip
(found on next page).

Louisville was founded by _____

_____.

It was named for _____

of _____

Louisville is the _____ city in Kentucky.

It is located on the _____ of the

_____.



The symbol of Louisville is



Louisville is well known for:

Cut out book as one piece. Fold in thirds on dotted lines.
Use the inside of the book to record information about Churchill Downs.



Thoroughbred



How much does a
thoroughbred weigh?

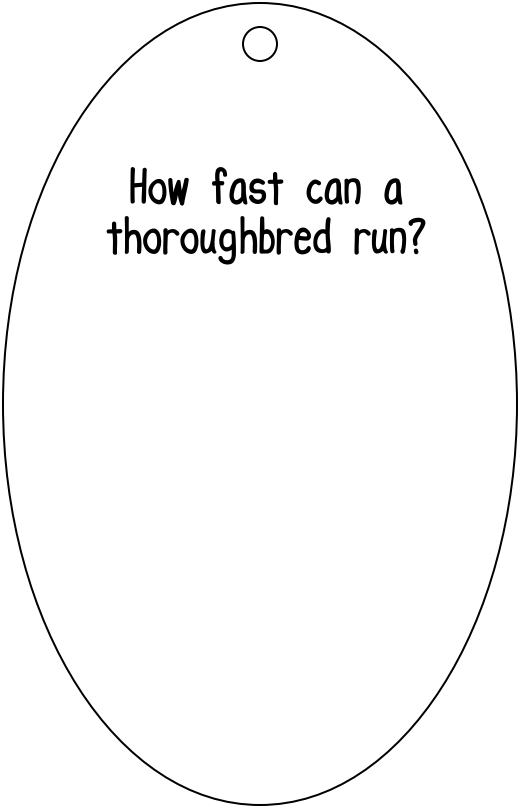
How tall is a
thoroughbred?

What is a
thoroughbred?

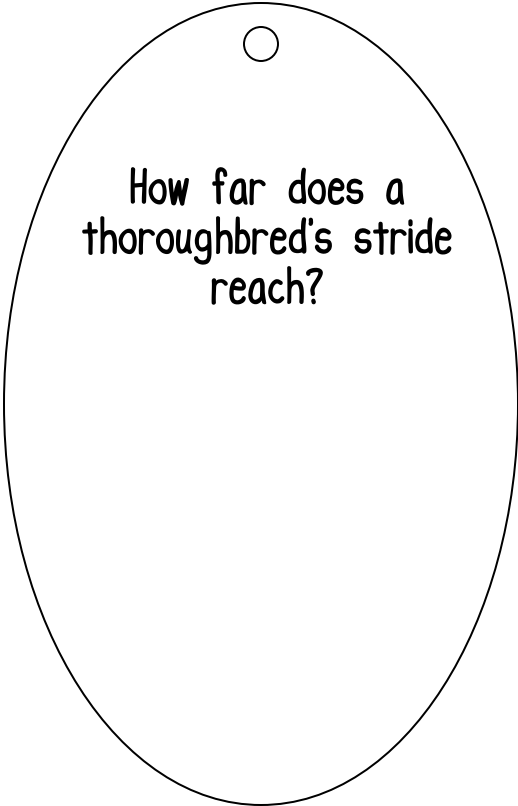
Print on cardstock. Cut out ovals. Stack together with cover on top and secure with a brad.



Describe a
thoroughbred's body type.



How fast can a
thoroughbred run?



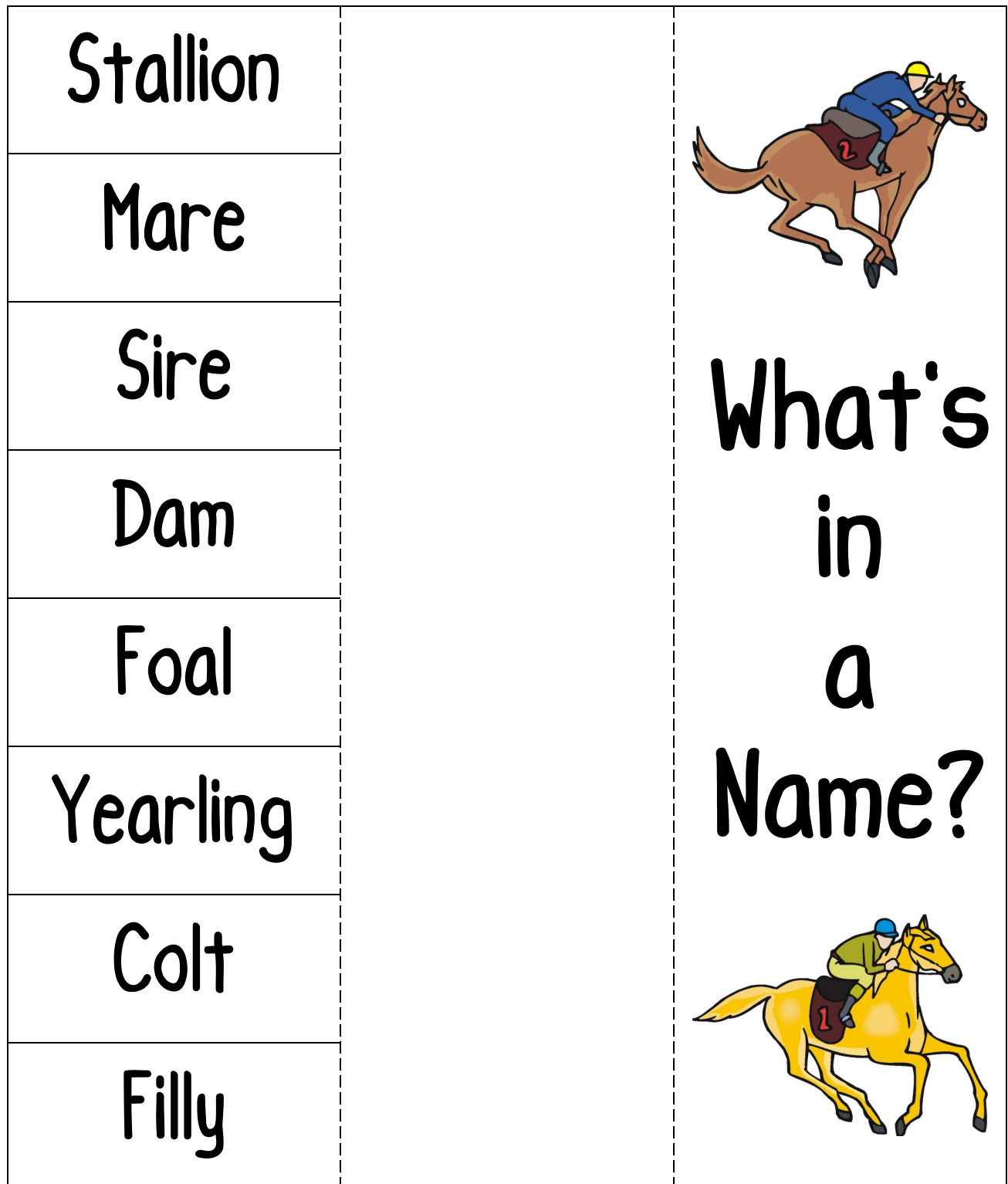
How far does a
thoroughbred's stride
reach?



What are the derby rules about naming a horse?



If you had a derby horse, what would you name it?



Cut out book as one piece. Cut on solid lines. Fold left side under. Fold right side so that it is the cover of your book.

Cut out all seven matchbooks (this page and next). Create a cover book by folding a piece of 20# paper (or cardstock) in half. Write a title (i.e. "The Thoroughbred Team") on the front. Paste the matchbooks to the inside of the book.

Farrier



© Homeschool Share

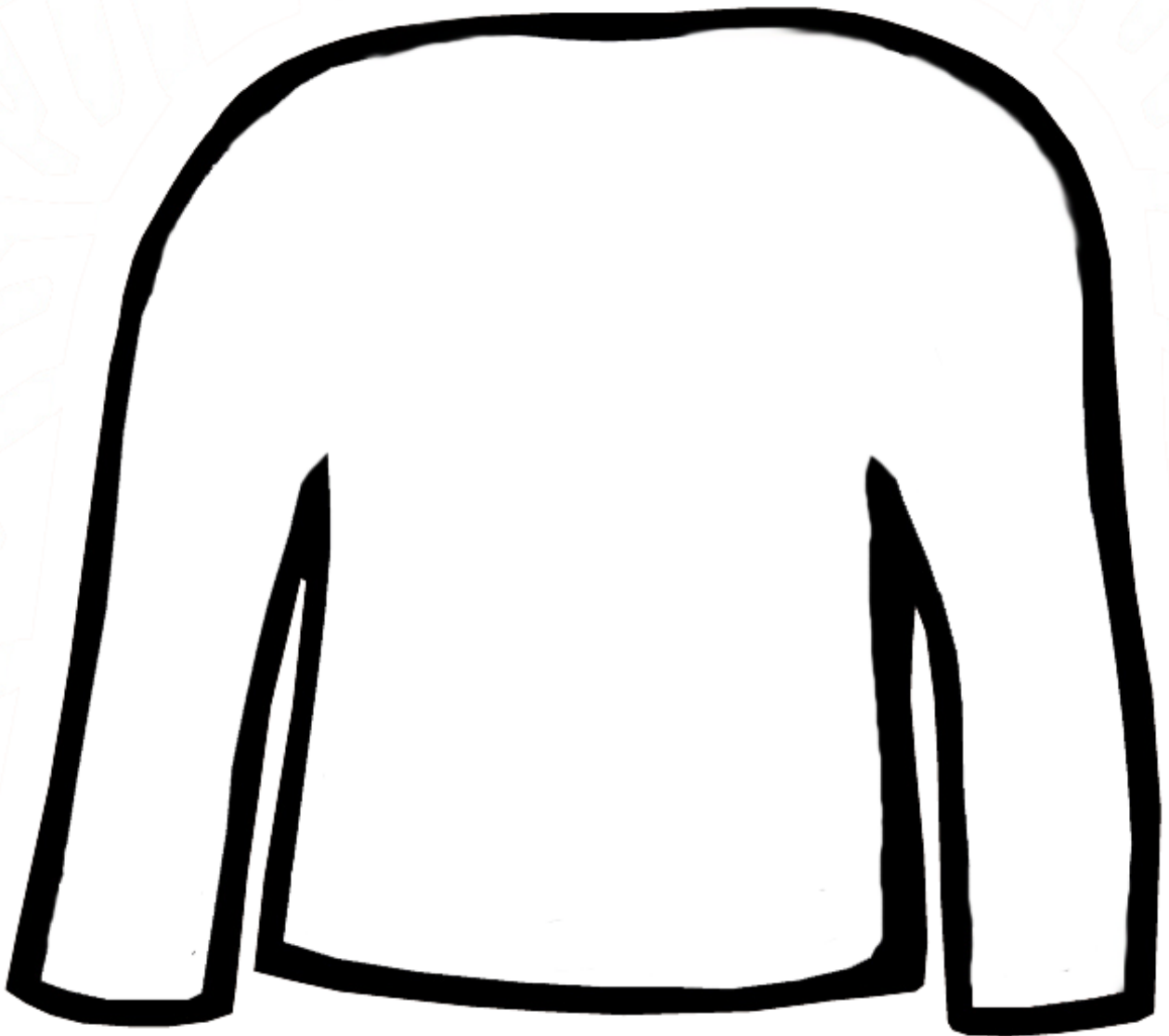
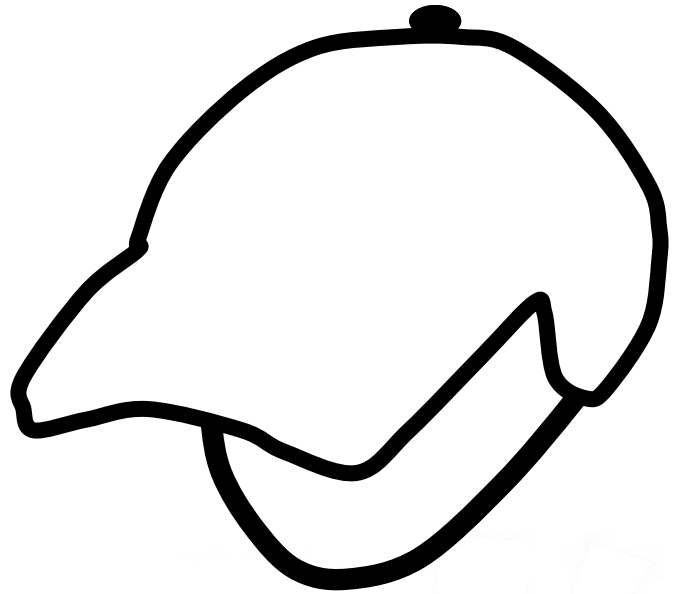
Kentucky



Mark Lexington (horse capital of the world), Louisville (largest city), and Frankfort (capital) on the map of Kentucky and paste the map to your lapbook or notebook.

Jockey	Groom	Trainer
		
Exercise Rider	Hotwalker	Veterinarian
		

Design
Your
Own Silks!



Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold on dotted lines. First, fold the right side in. Next, fold the left side in. Finally, fold the cover down.



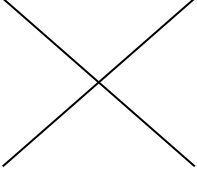
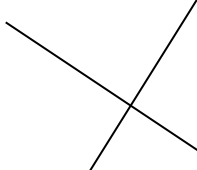
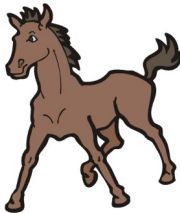




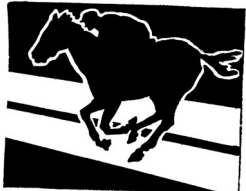
Riding
Position



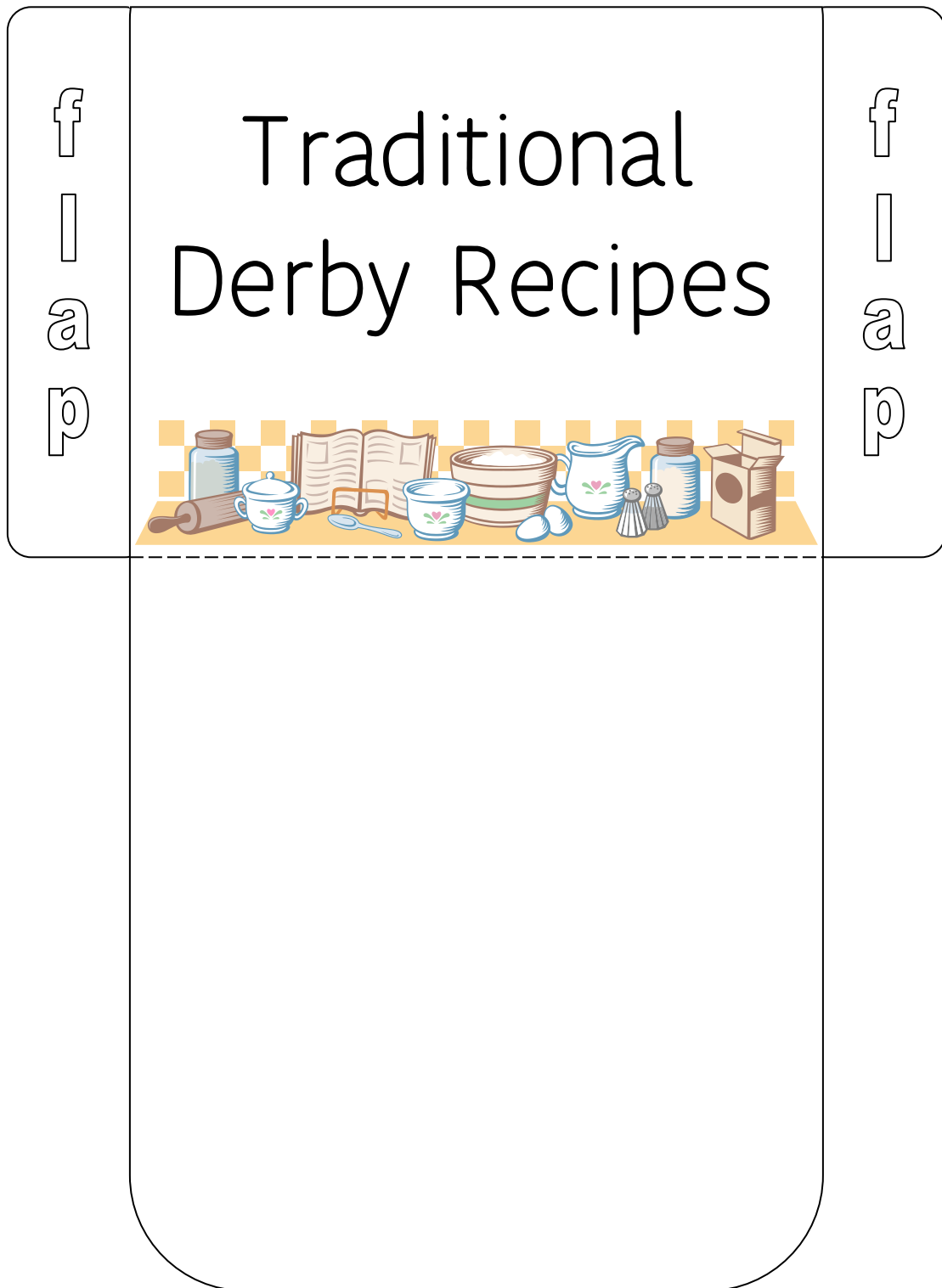
Derby Festival



Print page. Cut on solid lines; fold on dotted lines.

 <p>CUT AWAY</p>	<h1>Derby Facts</h1> <p>BACK</p>	 <p>CUT AWAY</p>
<p>How old do the horses have to be?</p> 		<p>When does the Kentucky Derby run?</p> 
<p>What is the Kentucky Derby</p> 		<p>How many thoroughbreds can run in the Kentucky Derby?</p> 
<p>How many fillies have won the Kentucky Derby?</p> 		<p>How long is the race?</p> 

Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.



Cut out recipe card. Fold in half and glue sides together. Store in pocket provided.

Hot Brown

Ingredients

4 oz. butter

flour to make a roux (6 tablespoons)

3 1/2 cups milk

1 egg, beaten

6 tablespoons grated Parmesan Cheese, plus extra

1 oz. whipped cream

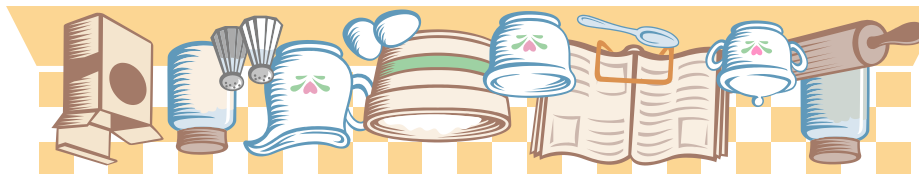
slices of roast turkey

8-12 slices of toast

8-12 strips fried bacon

Directions

Melt butter and add enough flour to make a reasonably thick roux (enough to absorb all of the butter). Add milk and Parmesan cheese, add egg to thicken sauce, but do not allow sauce to boil. Remove from heat. Fold in whipped cream. Add salt and pepper to taste. For each Hot Brown, place two slices of toast on a metal (or flameproof) dish. Cover the toast with a liberal amount of turkey.



Pour a generous amount of sauce over the turkey and toast and sprinkle with additional Parmesan cheese. Place entire dish under a broiler until the sauce is speckled brown and bubbly. Remove from broiler, cross two pieces of bacon on top, and

Cut out recipe card. Fold in half and glue sides together. Store in pocket provided.

Kentucky Burgoo

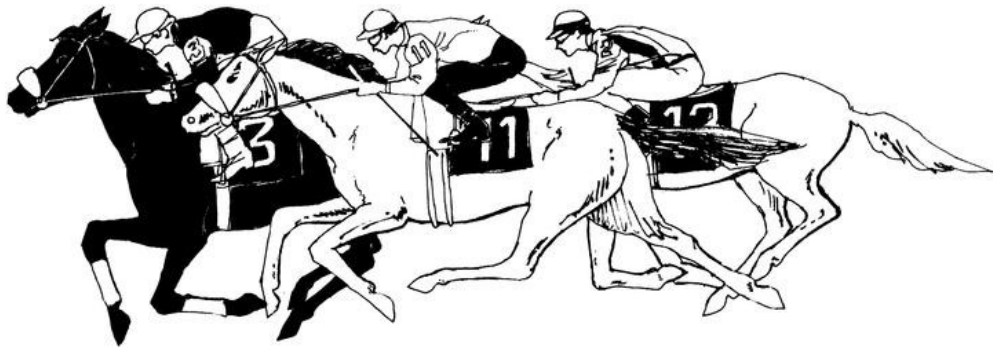
Ingredients

1 pound mixed cooked meats (beef, lamb, pork, chicken, etc.)	1 large potato, diced
1/2 gallon chicken stock	2 large carrots, diced
1/2 gallon beef stock	1/4 cup peas
1 ounce Worcestershire sauce	1/2 cup okra
1 cup tomatoes, diced	1/4 cup lima beans
1 large onion, diced	1/2 cup yellow corn
1 stalk celery, diced	2 teaspoons garlic, minced
1 small green pepper, diced	salt to taste)
	pepper to taste)



Directions
Combine all ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer for 2 hours,
skimming the top as needed.

The first Kentucky Derby was held in 1875. If a derby has been held every year since 1875, **how many derbies have there been?**



Benedictine

Ingredients

1 large cucumber

8 ounces cream cheese, softened

2 tablespoons grated onion

1/4 teaspoon salt

1 tablespoon mayonnaise

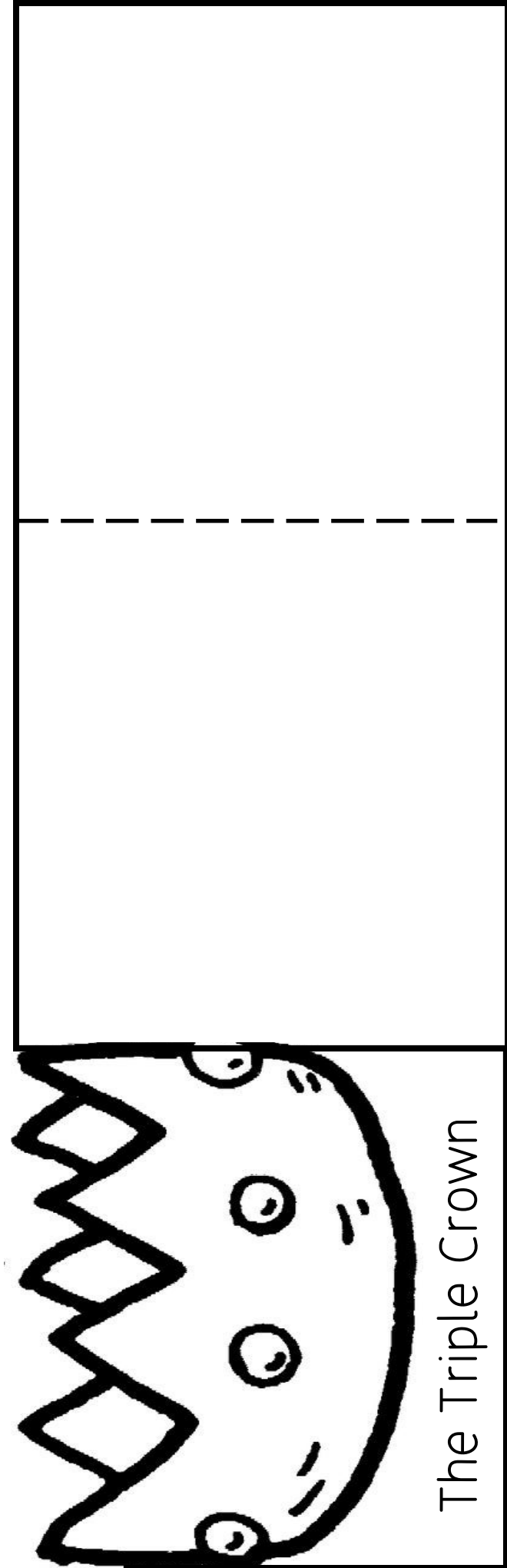
green food coloring, optional

Directions

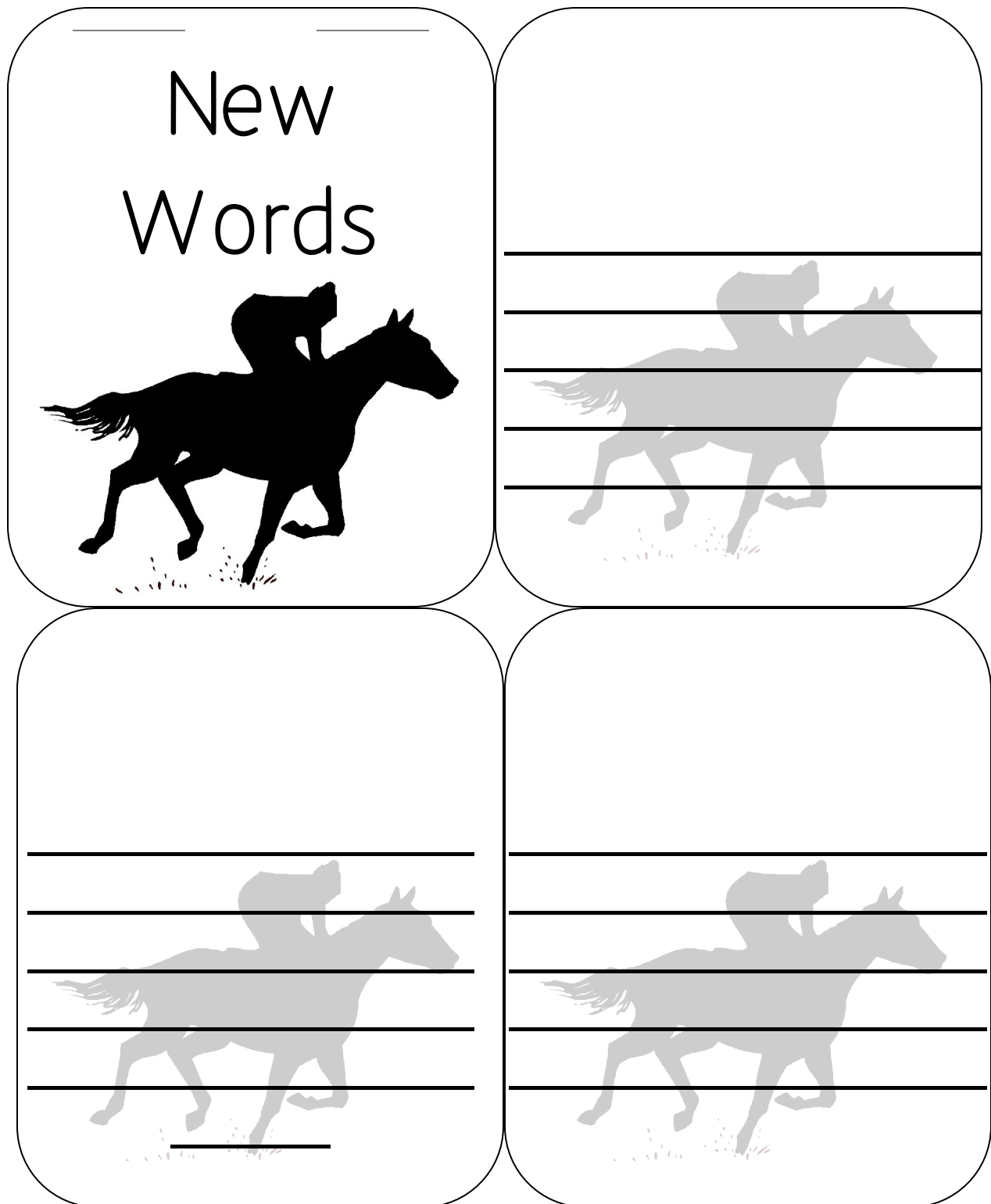
Pare, grate, and drain cucumber. Combine with remaining ingredients in food processor. Serve as is or as a sandwich spread. Thin with sour cream to make a dip for



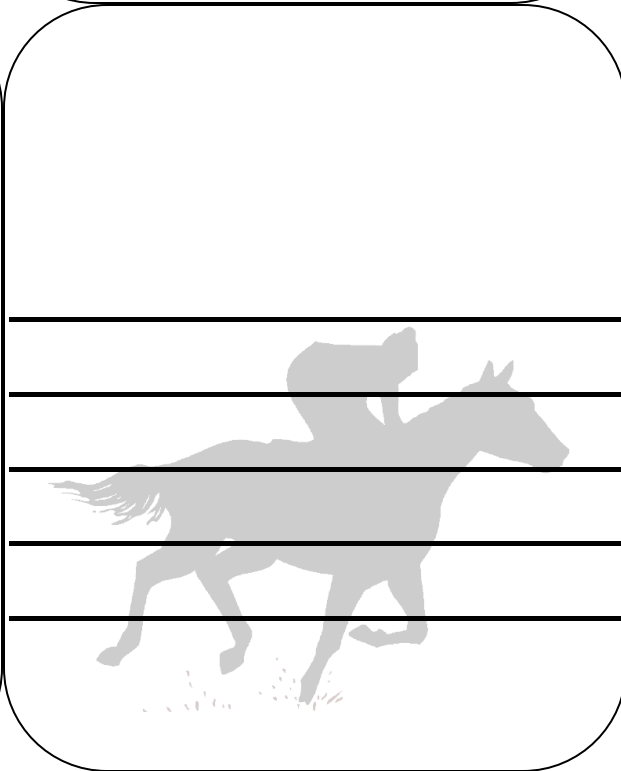
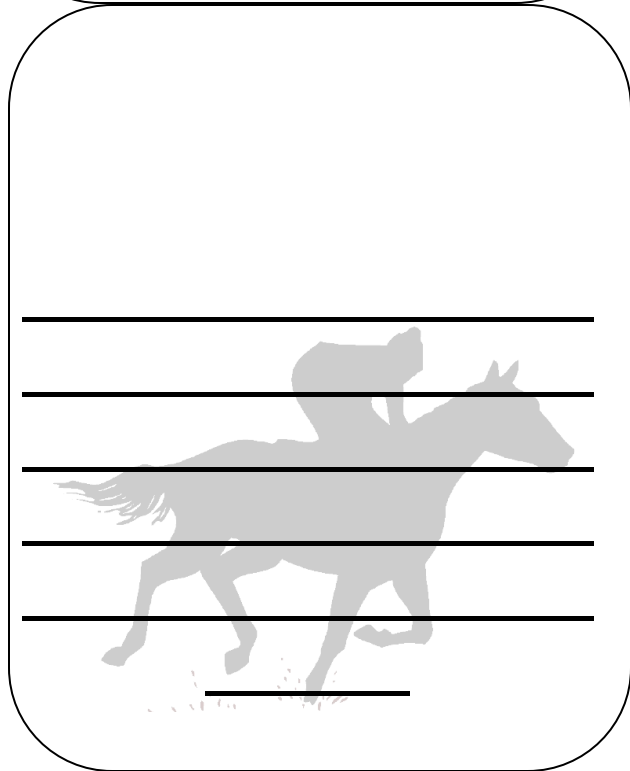
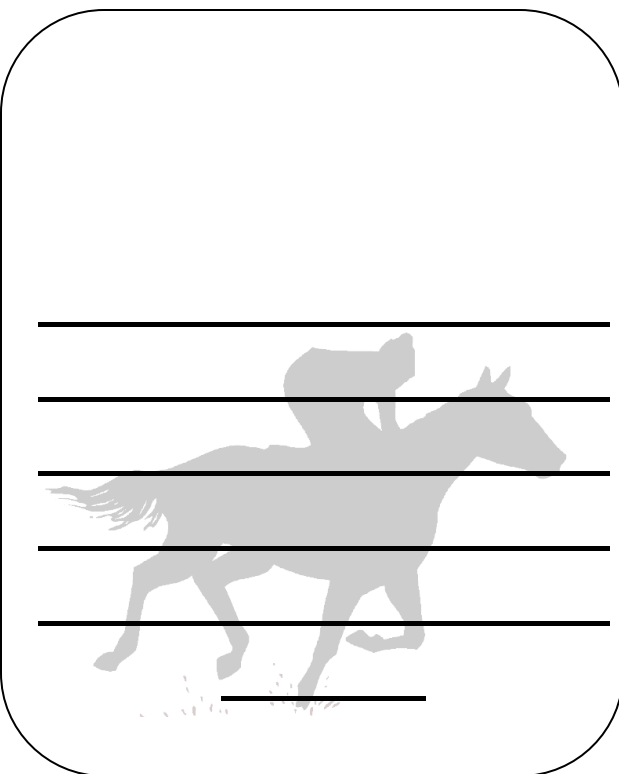
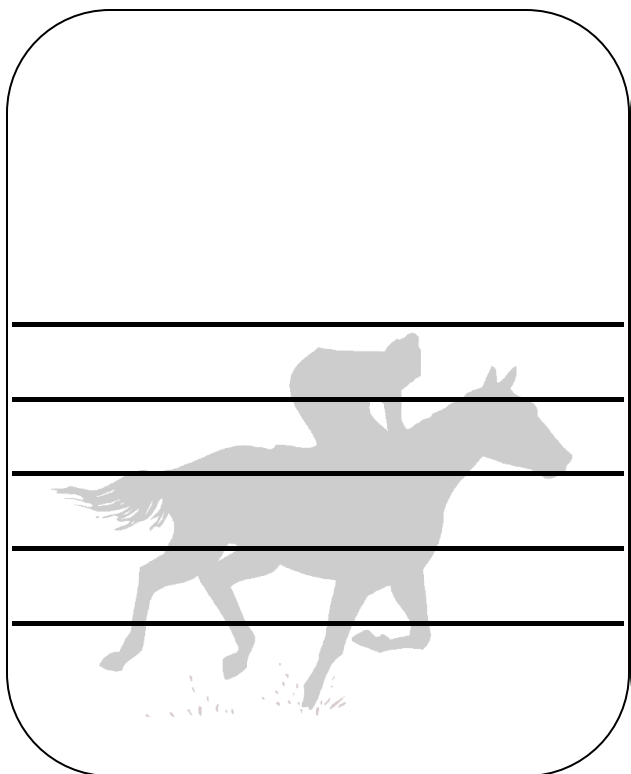
The Hat I'd Wear to the Derby



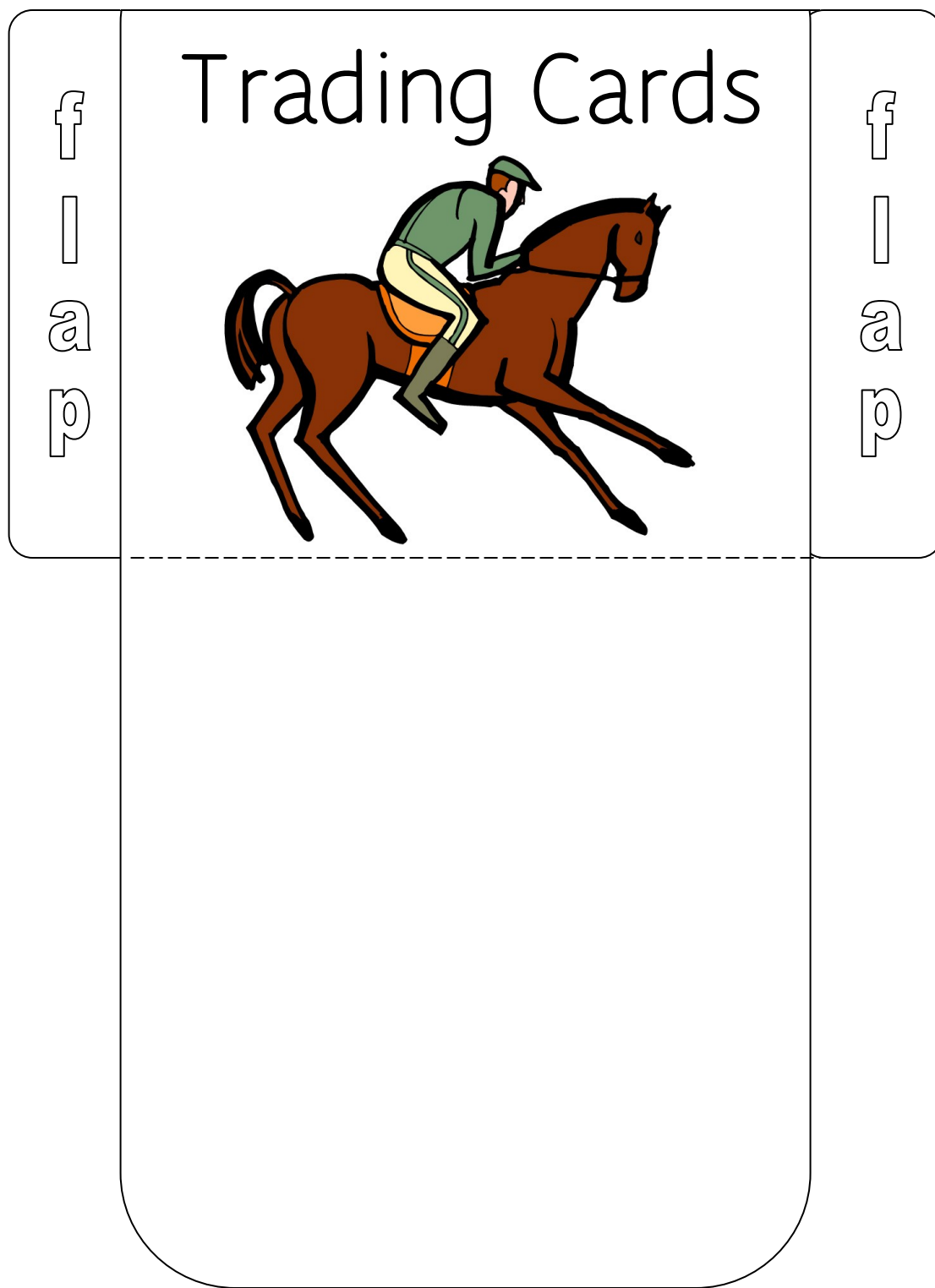
Print on card stock. Cut book out as one piece. Fold in thirds with crown on top. Cut around the top of the crown to give the book some shape.



Cut pages out. Write words and definitions on pages. Stack together with cover on top and staple as indicated.













Cut pocket out as one piece. Fold back up. Wrap flaps around the back and glue down.



Create your own trading cards using the template found on the next page.

Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted. Glue card together. Store in pocket provided.

<p>Height</p> <hr/> <p>Weight</p> <hr/> <p>Claim to Fame</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<div data-bbox="824 191 967 352"></div> <div data-bbox="850 371 977 533"></div> <div data-bbox="824 552 967 714"></div> <div data-bbox="850 732 977 894"></div> <div data-bbox="824 913 967 1075"></div> <div data-bbox="1135 384 1347 464" data-label="Text"><p>Glue picture of racehorse here</p></div>
<p>Height</p> <hr/> <p>Weight</p> <hr/> <p>Claim to Fame</p> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>	<div data-bbox="824 1096 967 1257"></div> <div data-bbox="850 1276 977 1438"></div> <div data-bbox="824 1457 967 1619"></div> <div data-bbox="850 1638 977 1799"></div> <div data-bbox="824 1818 967 1980"></div> <div data-bbox="1135 1268 1347 1348" data-label="Text"><p>Glue picture of racehorse here</p></div>