

Horse Cents

Objective

Students will mathematically explore the costs associated with owning a horse.

Background

Budgets are an essential part of everyday life. Your parents budget their money so they can pay the bills each month—and pay for your hamburgers and shoes. Store owners budget their money so they can pay their employees and keep merchandise in the store. Farmers must budget to pay for seeds to plant, maintenance of equipment, feed for their animals and many other expenses.

Just keeping one animal can cost a great deal of money, especially if it is a large animal, like a horse. Planning and budgeting come first. The purchase price is only the beginning. Maintenance of the horse often costs more. Maintenance includes feed, hay, tack and grooming supplies, and veterinary care, just to name a few.

For someone who loves horses but can't afford to own one, there are several other alternatives. Some people lease horses, which is similar to leasing a car or truck. Leasing is cheaper than purchasing, but the maintenance costs are still there.

Taking riding lessons at a stable is another alternative. With this option, you only have to pay for the lessons. Most stables either charge per hour or per lesson.

Vocabulary

budget—a statement of estimated income and expenses; a plan for using money

lease—an agreement to hand over something for a period of time, usually for a specified rent

lessee—a person holding or occupying property under a lease

maintenance—the care of property, equipment or animals

salary—money paid at regular times for work or services

Procedures

1. Read and discuss background and vocabulary.
2. Lead a brainstorming session on the pros and cons of purchasing a horse, leasing a horse or taking lessons.
 - Discuss the components of a paragraph. (See “Give Your Paragraph a Hand,” included with this lesson.)
 - Each student will choose one option—purchasing a horse, leasing a horse or taking lessons—and write a paragraph with logical explanations for his/her choice.

Oklahoma Academic Standards

GRADE 3

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and
Writing Process: W.1,2,3,4.
Critical Reading and Writing:
W.3
Number & Operations: 2.3,4,5

GRADE 4

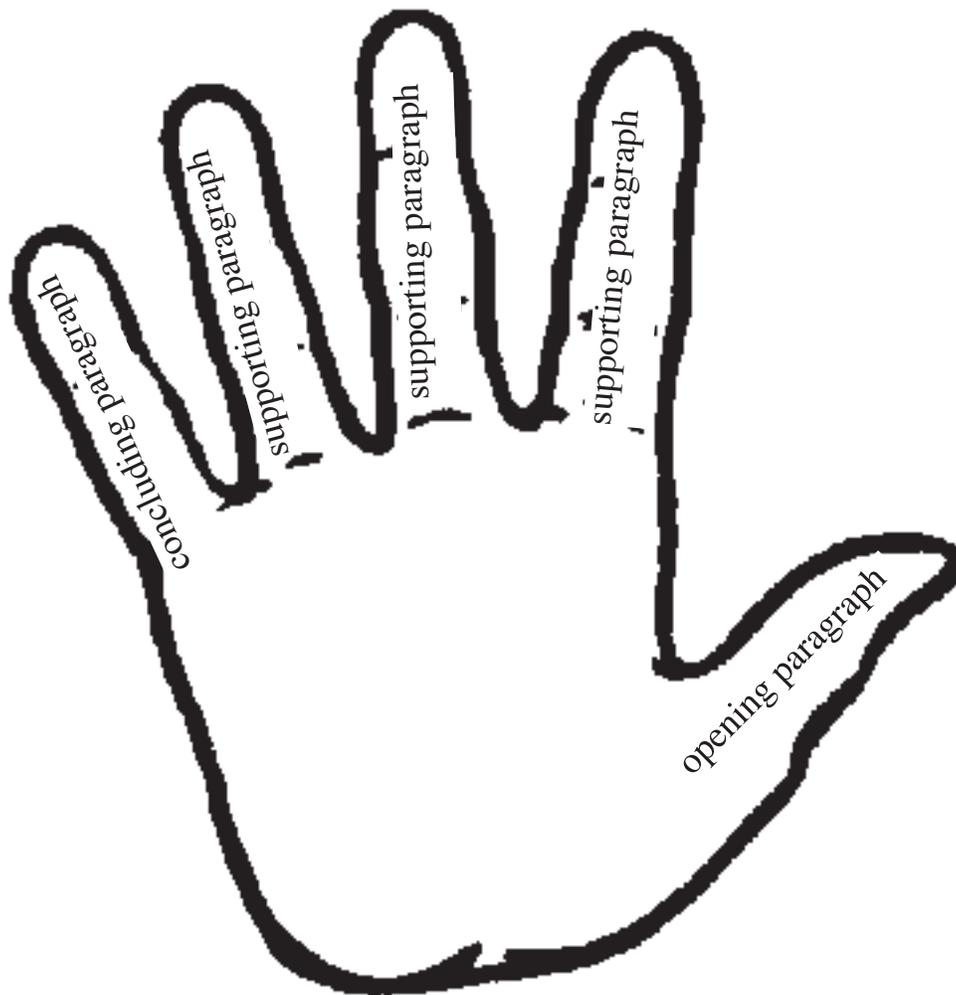
Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and
Writing Process: W.1,2,3,4.
Critical Reading and Writing:
W.3
Number & Operations: 1.3,4,5

GRADE 5

Speaking and Listening:
R.1,2,3; W.1,2. Reading and
Writing Process: W.1,2,3,4,5.
Critical Reading and Writing:
W.3
Number & Operations: 1.4

3. Lead a discussion in which you brainstorm ideas for cutting costs.
 - Students will develop budgets for their own maintenance. Make sure they include food, clothing, transportation and entertainment.
4. Hand out worksheets.
 - Students will complete the worksheet to determine the estimated total annual cost of owning a horse.

Give Your Paragraph a Hand



Name _____

Horse Cents

Before you decide to buy a horse, you should consider all the costs involved, not just the cost of buying the animal.

Estimated Equipment Costs

Round to the nearest dollar to estimate the cost of equipment. Record the estimate in the far right column.

saddle	\$599.75	
bridle	59.65	
saddle pad	30.32	
winter blanket	70.95	
halter	20.18	
curry comb	4.00	
hoof pick	.98	
brush	7.75	
buckets	35.00	

Total estimated costs \$ _____

Facility Costs per Year

Round to the nearest dollar to estimate the cost of equipment. Record the estimate in the far right column.

corral	\$998.25	
shed	722.98	
storage	30.32	

Total estimated facility costs per year \$ _____

Estimated Horse Care Costs

Round to the nearest dollar to estimate the cost of equipment. Record the estimate in the far right column.

feed	\$2.34
foot care	.33
veterinary service	.50

Total costs per day \$ _____

Total costs per week \$ _____

Round the costs per week to the nearest .10. \$ _____

Round the number of weeks per year to the nearest 10. X _____

Multiply these two numbers to get the Estimated Horse Care Costs Per Year.

\$ _____

Estimated Total Costs

Estimated Equipment Costs \$ _____

Estimated Facilities Costs \$ _____

Estimated Horse Care \$ _____

ESTIMATED TOTAL COSTS \$ _____