

Horse Cents

Grade Level: 3

Approximate Length of Activity: One class period

Objective

Teachers

1. Explain the concept of keeping a budget.
2. Show students ways of calculating the cost of a hobby horse.
3. Assist students in developing a paragraph that explains their personal decision.

Students

1. Mathematically explore the costs associated with owning a hobby horse.
2. Develop a paragraph that explains their decision.

Michigan Content Standards: (Math) N.ME.03.21; N.FL.03.06; N.FL.03.08; M.PS.03.11; M.PS.03.12

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.

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 includes feed, hay, veterinary care, tack and grooming supplies, just to name a few.

For someone who loves horses but can't afford to own one, there are several 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 all you have to pay for are the lessons. Most stables either charge per hour or per lesson.

Materials Needed

- Copies of “Horse Cents” worksheet 1 and 2

Activity Outline

1. Read and discuss background.
2. Hand out worksheets.
 - As an example, calculate the cost of the equipment needed for horse ownership or another hobby.
 - Instruct students to complete the remaining parts of the budget.

Discussion Questions

1. How could you lower the costs of owning a horse?
2. Why is it important to take good care of your money?
3. Which option would you choose: purchase a horse, lease a horse, or take riding lessons? Why?

Related Activities

1. Activities related to social studies.
 - Lead a discussion in which you brainstorm ideas for cutting costs.
 - Have students develop budgets for their own maintenance. Make sure they include food, clothing, transportation and entertainment.
2. Activities related to language arts.
 - Read and discuss background.
 - Lead a brainstorming session on the pros and cons of purchase, lease or taking lessons.
 - Discuss the components of a paragraph.
(See “Give Your Paragraph a Hand,” included with this lesson.)
 - Have each student choose one option-purchase, lease or taking lessons-and write a paragraph with logical explanations for his/her choice.
3. The lesson “Profit from Pumpkins” located in the math section of this curriculum guide.
4. Visit the Michigan Equine Youth Extension Web site at <http://web1.msue.msu.edu/horsekids/>

Book Resources

1. “Eyewitness: Horse” by Juliet Clutton-Brock
2. “A Week at the Fair: A County Celebration” by Patricia Harrison Easton and Herb Ferguson
3. “Horses” by Gail Gibbons
4. “The True or False Book of Horses” by Patricia Lauber
5. “Life on a Horse Farm” by Judy Wolfman and David Lorenz Winston

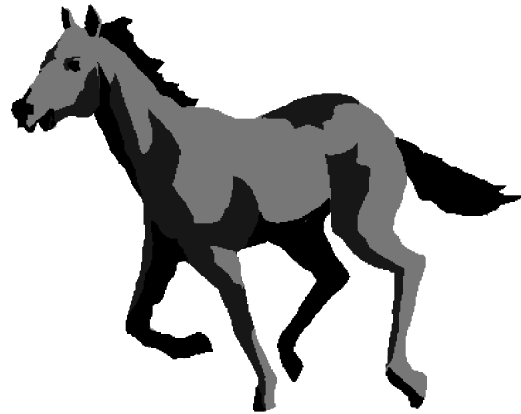
Horse Cents

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

Directions: Calculate the following costs. Add each category together to determine the total cost of maintenance. (Hint: To calculate cost per year, multiply cost per day by the number of days in one year.)

Equipment Costs

Saddle	\$600
Bridle	\$60
Saddle Pad	\$30
Winter Blanket	\$80
Halter	\$20
Curry Comb	\$4
Hoof pick	\$1
Brush	\$8
Buckets	\$35
Total:	\$_____



Facility Costs

Corral	\$1000
Shed	\$720
Storage	\$640
Total:	\$_____

Horse Care Costs

	Cost per day	Cost per year
Feed	\$2.34	_____
Foot Care	\$.33	_____
Veterinary Services	\$.50	_____
Total:		\$_____

Total Cost:

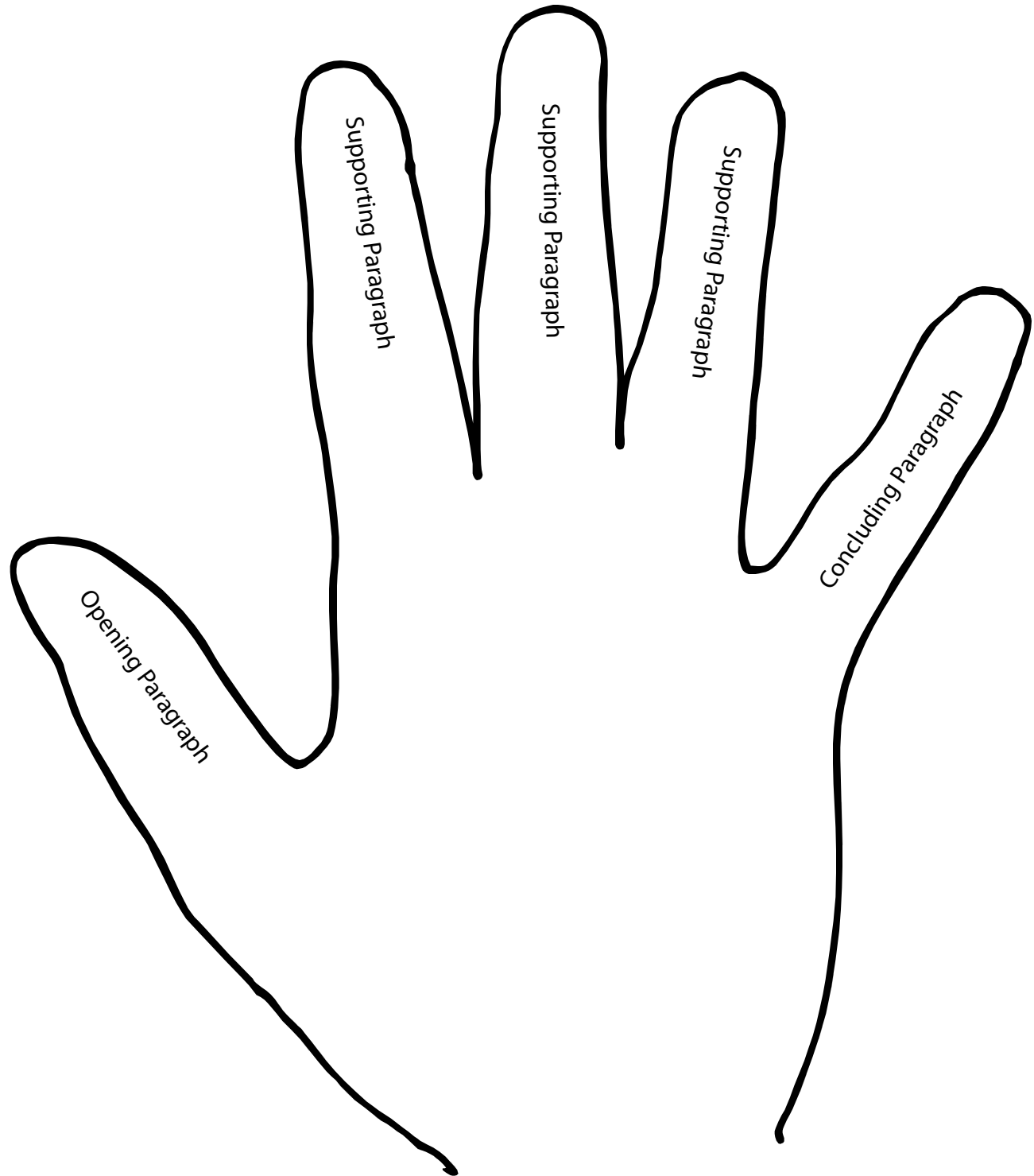
Equipment Cost \$ _____

Facility Costs \$ _____

Horse Care Costs per year \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Give Your Paragraph a Hand



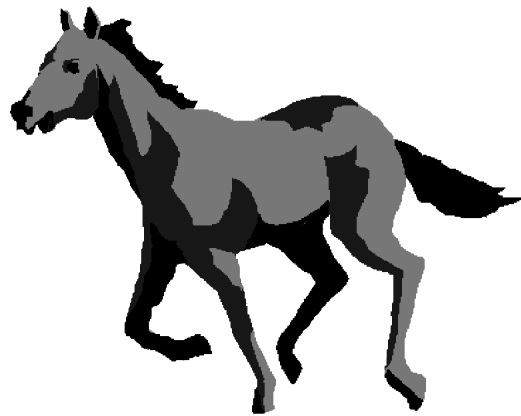
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Buckets	\$35
Total:	\$838



Facility Costs

Corral	\$1000
Shed	\$720
Storage	\$640
Total:	\$2,360

Horse Care Costs

	Cost per day	Cost per year
Feed	\$2.34	\$854.10
Foot Care	\$.33	\$120.45
Veterinary Services	\$.50	\$182.50
Total:		\$1,157.05

Total Cost:

Equipment Cost	\$ 838
Facility Costs	\$ 2,360
Horse Care Costs per year	\$ 1,157.05
TOTAL =	\$ 4355.05