

Teaching Guide for Odyssey

May/June 2010

This guide was prepared by Robert Maxim. He is an English language arts teacher and author in New York State.

Let's get started reading this great issue. First teachers can have students read: *The First Horse Riders* (pg. 2) and *The First Horse Tamers* (pg. 10). Next, question students and ask: What evidence suggests horses were domesticated over 5,500 years ago?

After reading *Bird Feeders Split a Species* (pg. 4), students can research, using the internet or library, other changes animals have made to adapt to their environment?

Students can read: *Quick! What are Ringworm and Rain Rot?* (pg. 5)
Ask students: What diseases do horses and people share? Describe each disease.

Students read *Asses to Zebras!* (pg. 14). Next, students can research other animals and write their own interviews with that animal. Students can also use the articles in this issue to write a story from the perspective of a wild horse.

After reading *They Painted Horses-and Ate Them!* (pg.16), have students explain two theories that explain the paintings of horses on cave walls. (The images may have been created to ensure a successful hunt.) (At least some of the images were used to record and share information about the animals.)

Read *Not Everyone Loves Wild Horses* (pg.18). Next, ask the students what happens to rangeland when many species have to share the land. Compare this to the world's population using natural resources.

After reading *Home Off the Range*, (pg.33) have students discuss, in writing, why a person would have to possess certain traits and characteristics to adopt a wild horse. Use details and examples from the article to explain.

- Have dedication, patience, and an open heart
- Read to your horse-getting the horse used to your voice
- Be able to read the horse's body language
- Introduce new objects to the horse
- Have the required living area
- Have time to tend to the horse

Read the article: *The Secret Lives of Horses* (pg.24). After reading, students can write an essay to discuss the many differences between domesticated and wild horses.

Have fun with this issue!