



PONY CLUB



PONIES' TEETH

Mini Achievement Badge

Learning Objectives

That ponies have two types of teeth which grow throughout the pony's life and need to be checked ever year for sharp edges.

Syllabus

- 1 Know that the lips are used for gathering grass and hay.
- 2 Know horse has two kinds of teeth, incisors and molars.
Know incisors are for biting.
Know that incisors bite off grass.
Know molars are for grinding.
Know that molars grind up hay and grass.
- 3 Know that ponies have baby and adult teeth.
Understand that ponies' teeth continue to grow throughout life.
- 4 Know that a pony should have its teeth checked by a vet (or equine dentist), for sharp edges once a year.

Teaching Ideas and Resources

- 1 Explain that ponies have a strong sensitive upper lip that brings the grass to the teeth.
Our upper lips cannot gather in food, for fun give each member a sweet on the palm of their hand, ask them to try to pick up the sweet with their upper lip. Ponies and children have different upper lips!
- 2 If real teeth are available show and handle molars and incisors, separate into two groups.
Explain that incisors are for biting off grass and that molars are for grinding up the grass and hay once it has been bitten off.

Copy a diagram of incisors and molars.

Stand in the shape of a molar or an incisor.

- 3 Show and handle baby teeth and adult teeth, separate into two groups. Discuss why baby teeth are like human baby teeth.

Make baby teeth out of white play dough, make adult teeth out of yellow playdough.

- 4 Explain that the way ponies grind their teeth can lead to sharp edges on the inside of the upper teeth and the outside of the lower teeth, making the pony's cheeks sore.

Feel a tooth with sharp edges.

Draw a tooth with sharp edges.

Ask if any member has seen a pony having its teeth rasped, talk about process.

Questions

- 1 Which two types of teeth do ponies have?
- 2 What do ponies use their lips for?
- 3 Why do ponies need their teeth checked by a dentist?
- 4 What are the first set of teeth called?

Answers

- 1 Incisors and molars.
- 2 Gathering grass and hay.
- 3 To check if there are any sharp edges that might make their mouth sore.
- 4 Baby teeth, they change for adult teeth later in life like a human.

Recommended Reading

14th Edition The Pony Club Manual P122 sharp edges, P156 care of teeth