

PONY PAL CLUB

Parent Answer Guide

Ages 7-10 | Quick answers for Lessons 1-4

Lesson 1 - Pony Basics

1. Pony or horse?	Height. A pony is generally 14.2 hands (148 cm) or under at the withers; breed rules can vary.
2. Four things a pony can eat	Examples: grass, hay/haylage, suitable fibre feeds, and appropriate fruit/vegetable treats in moderation.
3. What is a pony?	A mammal.
4. Difference between pony and horse	Mainly height classification, although some breeds are traditionally called horses or ponies regardless of height.
5. Most important part of the diet	Fibre/forage.
6. How big is a hand?	4 inches (10.16 cm).

Lesson 2 - Inside Your Pony

1. What is a pony?	A mammal.
2. Three body systems	Any three appropriate systems, e.g. nervous, digestive, respiratory, circulatory, skeletal or muscular.
3. Do the systems work together?	Together.
4. Four paces/gaits	Walk, trot, canter and gallop.
5. Two parts of the foot	Examples: hoof wall, sole, frog, heel or bars.
6. Two joints	Examples: knee (carpus), hock, fetlock, stifle, pastern.

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Lesson 3 - Pony Care

1. Three more body systems	Any three correct systems not already used, e.g. digestive, respiratory, circulatory, skeletal, muscular.
2. Why clean the feet?	To remove stones, mud and debris and to check for injury, damage or signs of problems.
3. What does the frog do?	Helps with shock absorption, grip and healthy hoof function/circulation.
4. How often should you groom?	Regularly; ideally check/groom as part of daily care, especially before and after riding.
5. Three reasons to groom	Examples: remove dirt, check skin/body for injury, promote comfort/coat health, and build trust.
6. When should tack be cleaned?	Check/wipe it after use and clean it regularly; clean more thoroughly when dirty and inspect for wear.

Lesson 4 - Hooves, Tack & Memory

1. Two reasons to clean tack	To keep it safe and comfortable, remove dirt/sweat, and spot damage or wear.
2. Why use clean brushes?	To avoid putting dirt back onto the coat and reduce transfer of skin problems between ponies.
3. Why use hoof oil?	It may be used for appearance or, where appropriate, as part of hoof care; it is not a substitute for good nutrition and farriery.
4. How often are feet trimmed?	Often about every 4-8 weeks, depending on the individual pony, season and farrier's advice.
5. Why trim feet?	To maintain hoof balance, shape and healthy growth.
6. Why might a pony wear shoes?	For protection, traction, support or corrective/therapeutic reasons, as advised by a farrier/vet.

Parent note: Some pony-care answers can vary with the individual pony. Follow your vet, farrier and qualified instructor's advice where appropriate.