

Activity Book for Schools 4

Horsepower



More than 100 years ago, army horses filled the Irish town of Athy. Look in this picture for different kinds of horses, such as – a fine horse for an officer, horses for all the cavalry soldiers, a white horse for the trumpeter, and even a horse pulling a carriage.



My Name:

Find the Missing Horses!

For hundreds of years, armies used horses to move weapons and supplies and to fight in battles. Then in the 20th century technology replaced horses with other ways of doing these jobs. Because few objects survive to show how horses were important in the army, you will need to look carefully to find references to horses in the *Soldiers and Chiefs* galleries.

You will be looking for horses and how they were used:

- in battle
- moving men, supplies and weapons
- on parade or in ceremonies
- in daily life



Enter the first room after the introduction space.

Horses at Work - in 'The British Garrison in Ireland'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery –
Add a horseshoe to the box under the topics that describe the work the horses are doing.

1 Horses in the Stokes Tapestry - Stop at the big display in the middle of the room.

Look for two battle scenes on the large tapestry.

How many horses are there in each battle? Top battle Bottom battle

Hint: To see close-ups of these horses look at them on the computer.

Look for a scene with a carriage. How many horses are pulling it?

Look for a funeral scene. How many horses are in the funeral procession?

In the scene with Queen Victoria and the Duke of Wellington, how many members of the royal family are on horseback?

How many soldiers are there with the Queen?

Hints: The cavalry soldiers are waving swords.
The Duke of Wellington is not part of the cavalry.

Fighting Sitting Down

Cavalry – soldiers trained to fight on horseback

Infantry – soldiers trained to fight on foot



Add horseshoes to the boxes for: 'Horses in Battle', 'Horses in Ceremonies', and 'Horses in Daily Life'.

2 A Dozen Horses - Stop at the first display to the left of the exit.

In the display 'Part-time Soldiering', find the cloth hanging at the back of the case. It shows scenes with army horses in a military review.

How many horses are on parade?

How many of these horses have had their tails cut short or 'docked'?

Find the single army horses. How many are there?

Hint: A drummer boy stands beside one of these horses.

How many horses are pulling a carriage?

Hint: All the horses you find should add up to twelve (a dozen)!



Short Tails

Some senior officers in the British Army liked the look of short tails, and ordered that cavalry horses' tails be cut or 'docked'. But these horses could not use their tails to get rid of annoying flies. Docking of horses' tails in the British cavalry ended in 1845.



Add horseshoes to the boxes for: 'Horses on Parade' and 'Horses in Daily Life'.



Enter the next room.

Horses at Work - in 'Warfare in Ireland'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery – Add a horseshoe to the box under the topics that describe the work the horses are doing.

3

For the Want of a Stirrup

- Turn left at the doorway and stop at the first display.



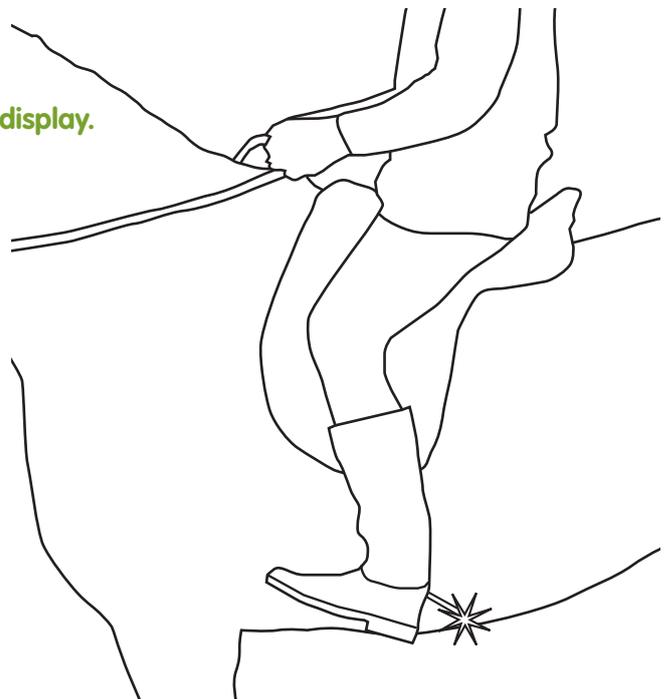
Look for the boot and spurs. Finish this drawing – add the stirrup.

Stirrup Support

Stirrups hang from a strap on each side of a horse's saddle and help support the rider's feet. The English won the Battle of Kinsale in 1601, partly because their cavalry had stirrups and the Irish cavalry did not.



Add one horseshoe to the box for: 'Horses in Battle'.



4

Cromwell’s Cavalry - Stop at the next display along the wall.

Look for a yellow uniform in the display case. The cavalry of the British Army wore this uniform. They fought against Irish pikemen and won. Examine the horseman’s gear and read the panels to discover some of the reasons why he was a fearsome enemy.



Look at his uniform and list three things that helped the soldier ride a horse or protected him in battle.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

Why do you think there is a ring on the carbine (a short version of a musket)?

Hint: In battle, a cavalry soldier had to hold on to his sword, his pistol and the horse’s reins.



Add one horseshoe to the box for: ‘Horses in Battle’.

5

How to Move Heavy Artillery - Cross the room and stop at the big cannon.

It is the biggest cannon in this room. It took a team of six horses to move this piece of field artillery. Imagine that you are in charge of moving the cannon.

Would you hitch the horses to the front or to the back of the cannon?

Front

Back



What would you have to do if you saw the enemy coming toward you while you were moving the cannon?



Add one horseshoe to the box for: ‘Horses Moving Weapons’.



Leave through the doorway, walk past the row of helmets and go right through the next room.

Horses at Work - in 'Irish in the American Civil War'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery don't forget to add a horseshoe to the boxes.



Horses to the Rescue – This activity is in the displays about 'Making Their Mark Around the World'.

Find the model of tiny soldiers, horses and a tent. This is a scene from the Franco-Prussian War, fought in 1870-71 between France and Prussia (now part of Germany).



Draw the symbol for medical care that is shown on the ambulance.

What do you think it was like to be a wounded soldier riding in a horse-drawn ambulance, compared to being in a modern ambulance?



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.



Enter the next room, turn right and then through into the big space.

Horses at Work - in 'Irish in the British Service'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery don't forget to add a horseshoe to the boxes.

7

A Horsewoman's Seat - Stop at the display in the middle of the wall on the right.

Find the saddle. This saddle was made in the 19th century and was designed for a woman rider.

Compare the saddle to the photograph of the woman riding a horse.

Does the way she sits on the saddle look comfortable to you? Yes No

A Good Seat

The word 'seat' is used to describe if a rider appears in control and balance when sitting on the horse – a skilled rider is said to have 'a good seat'.



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.

8

Horse-Drawn Vehicles



Look on the panel 'Army Families Overseas' to find a photograph from India taken in front of a house.

Look on the panel 'Garrison Duty Overseas' for a painting from Canada to see horses behaving badly on the ice of Toronto Bay.



Choose either the picture from India or the one from Canada and draw what the horses are pulling.



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.

9

Find All the Cavalry Soldiers - Walk to the arrow on the floor and stop at the display to your left.

Look for a painting of many British Army soldiers with red uniforms on the panel 'Khaki and Repeating Rifles'.

The eight soldiers on horses are cavalrymen. Now pick out the cavalry soldiers from the men standing at the front of the picture, by finding the ones wearing cavalry hats.

Hints: The British Army had three kinds of hats for three sorts of cavalry.

- A 'lancer' wore an hourglass-shaped hat with a big floppy plume.
- A 'hussar' wore a furry hat with a red and white spiked plume.
- A 'dragoon' wore a metal helmet with a white flowing plume.

Now find and identify the cavalry soldiers among the people standing in the front of the picture, using their hats as the clue.

How many cavalry soldiers are standing?

What sort are they?

Lancer

Dragoon

Hussar



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.



Leave this room and stop on the bridge.

10

A Bird's Eye View - Before you enter the next room, look at the displays below.

You can see the future of horses in the army. Do you see any horses?

Yes

No

Instead of horses, you can see several large vehicles that were used by the Irish Defence Forces during the 20th century.

Horses at Work – in 'The First World War' and in '1916 – The Easter Rising'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery don't forget to add a horseshoe to the boxes.

11 Horses Moved Field Guns - Stop at the big gun on wheels.

Imagine a team of six horses moving this 18-pounder field gun and guess how far down the length of this room the horses would stand.

- As far back as the Irish Republic flag
- As far back as 'The Irish Wars' panel
- All the way back to the end wall



Hints: The horses worked in pairs – three pairs of two horses. Each pair took up about three metres in length. The first pair overlapped half of the pole attached to the field gun. Look at the photograph on the label 'Machinery of War' to see a train of wagons pulled by horses.

Draught-horses

In the First World War hundreds of thousands of horses were used to move guns and supplies.



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.

12 Infantry Horses - Stop at the panel 'How to Read a Battalion' next to the big gun.

This panel shows an infantry Battalion from the British Army in the First World War. One officer is mounted on a horse. What is the officer's rank? _____

Battalion Horses

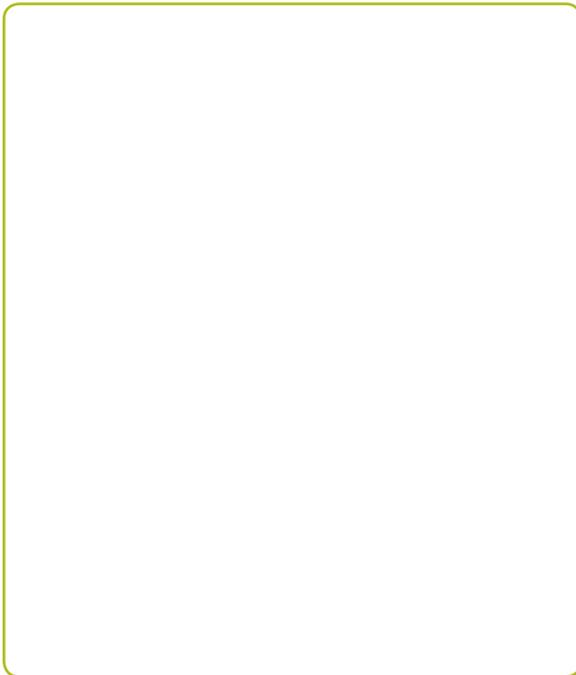
The battalion would have had about 75 other horses, mostly to carry the baggage and supplies as the unit moved from place to place.



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.

13

What Horses Faced - Walk around the 'Battalion' panel and stop at 'War on the Somme'.



Draw either the German machine gun or the barbed wire.

Why were these two pieces of equipment so good at stopping the British cavalry?

Hint: Read the labels.

Machine gun

Barbed wire



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.



Leave this room and go down the stairs.

Horses at Work - in 'Claiming the Future'

Horses in Battle	Horses Moving Men, Supplies, Weapons	Horses on Parade or in Ceremonies	Horses in Daily Life



As you finish each activity in this gallery don't forget to add a horseshoe to the boxes.

14

Ceremonial Horses - Turn left at the bottom of the stairs and stop at the display in the middle of the wall.

Look for a fancy blue uniform in the display case for 'Building the Forces - The Blue Hussars'. In the 1930s the Irish army had a unit of mounted soldiers, even though they were never intended to fight.

Read the label to find out why the army needed horses for a 'Special Mounted Escort'.

Tick the correct answer

- Horse racing on the beach
- Delivering messages where vehicles cannot go
- Special parades and events like the Eucharistic Congress



Add a horseshoe to the box that names the type of work done by the horses.

15

Tanks and Carriers - One vehicle is near the bottom of the stairs. Enter the large space to find the others in the middle of the room (on different sides of the curved wall).

Find the four motor-driven vehicles on this floor.

Look at the label for the 'Weapons Specifications: Powerplant' to find the 'horsepower' (hp) of each engine – write that number on this chart.

'hp' Means Horsepower

The power of the first steam engines was measured by comparing them with horses. Ever since, the power of an engine has been shown as the number of horses it would take to do the same job as the engine.

Vehicle	Horsepower
UN Panhard M3 VTT Armoured Personnel Carrier	
Landsverk L60 Light Tank	
Ford Mark VI Armoured Car	
Universal Carrier	

Mystery of the Missing Horses – Solved

Did you notice that to show horses at work for the hundreds of years before the First World War (in 1914) you drew a lot of horseshoes? Did you also notice that you drew very few horseshoes to show their work between 1914 to today?

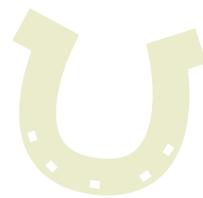
You saw that armies still used horses in the First World War to move weapons and supplies, and sometimes as cavalry in battle. Once in a while the army also used horses in ceremonies in the 20th century. But the army no longer uses horses the way it used to.

The difference in the number of horseshoes shows that during the 20th century armies used fewer horses until they were replaced with motor-driven vehicles.

Horses in Daily Life

Until the 1990s you could still see horses in cities and towns pulling delivery wagons in Ireland. Even today you may see a horse on the streets from time to time. If you do, think about all the horses that used to provide the power for armies in Ireland and overseas.

Now that you have finished your search for horses, check your answers here.



- 1 Horses in the Stokes Tapestry**
Top battle has seven horses
Bottom battle has four horses
Two horses pull the carriage (top right)
One horse in the funeral procession
Queen Victoria, Prince Albert plus four children (6), one officer and four cavalry soldiers (5)
- 2 A Dozen Horses**
Eight horses on parade, five with docked tails
Two single horses, one with drummer boy
Two horses pulling carriage (docked tails)
- 4 Cromwell's Cavalry**
The pot helmet protects his head.
The thick leather jacket provides a layer of protection against sword cuts.
The skirts of his coat are cut to fit over a horse.
The ring on the handle was used to attach the weapon to the saddle, so that the rider did not lose the carbine if he let go of it.
- 5 How to Move Heavy Artillery**
Hitch the horses to the back of the cannon: it is dragged with the muzzle facing backwards.
You would have to turn around and unhitch the horses — best to avoid narrow roads!
- 6 Horses to the Rescue**
The red cross is an international symbol for medical care.
The ride was:
 - more bumpy, with jerks when horses started up and stopped
 - slower to get medical help
 - more uncomfortable for the wounded man
- 7 A Horsewoman's Seat**
She rides side-saddle: sitting a little to the left, with her right leg around the curved prong on the front of the saddle – not very comfortable.
- 8 Horse-Drawn Vehicles**
A carriage in India
Sleighs in Canada
- 9 Find All the Cavalry Soldiers**
There are two cavalry soldiers standing side-by-side (fourth and fifth from the left side of the picture) – a hussar and a dragoon
- 10 A Bird's Eye View**
No
- 11 Horses Moved Field Guns**
As far back as 'The Irish Wars' panel
- 12 Infantry Horses**
Lieutenant-colonel
- 13 What They Faced**
Machine guns killed the horses before they could get close enough for the cavalry to harm the enemy.
Barbed wire stopped the horses from moving freely over the landscape.
- 14 Ceremonial Horses**
Special parades and events
In 1932 for the Eucharistic Congress (an international Catholic celebration)
- 15 Tanks and Carriers**
UN Panhard M3 VTT Armoured Personnel Carrier – 90 hp
Landsverk L60 Light Tank – 150 / 160 hp
Ford Mark VI Armoured Car – 85 hp
Universal Carrier – 85 hp



ANSWERS

Want to know more?

For more information on exhibitions and education programmes, contact the Education and Outreach Department of the National Museum of Ireland.

Tel: 01 648 6453 Fax: 01 679 1025 email: bookings@museum.ie

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Cover image: Headquarters detachment of the 5th Dragoon Guards at Athy, on their way from Curragh to Cahir, Ireland, June 1863. The image is published in: *History of the British Cavalry* Volume 2, by the Marquis of Anglesea, 1980s