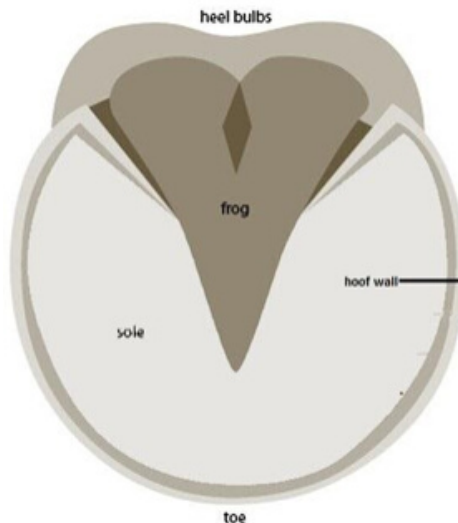


## PARTS OF THE HOOF

A horse's foot is built very differently from a humans. When we "pick" or clean our horse's hoof, it is important that we know the different parts of the hoof. By knowing these different parts we can make sure our horses hoof is thoroughly clean so that they do not hurt themselves on stones or dirt that may be stuck in their hoof! There are five basic parts to a horse's hoof: The hoof wall, the heel, the toe, the sole, and the frog.



The heel and the toe are our two easiest to identify or notice. Just like in humans, the toe is the very tip of the hoof and the heel is the very back of the horse's hoof.

The sole of a foot might sound similar too. Humans also have a sole in their feet. This is the center of the foot (or hoof in horses) that makes up most of the bottom of the hoof. This part of the hoof can become bruised if a horse steps on a rock, so it's very important that we clear out all of the mud and pebbles from this spot when we pick our horses hooves.

The hoof wall is the outer wall of the horses hoof. This is made out of the same thing as our fingernails and hair, a substance called Keratin!

The final part of the horse's hoof is called the frog. The frog is the triangle shaped, soft spot on a horse's hoof. The frog is a soft tissue or fleshy spot, with a large amount of blood vessels. The frog has two very important jobs. First, the frog is a cushion for the bones in the horse's foot and leg, just like the pads or soft parts under our feet keep our foot healthy while we walk, run, or jump. Second, the frog pumps blood through the horse's body. Every time the horse takes a step, the blood in the frog is pushed back up the horse's legs into the rest of the body. Without the frog, the horse's blood would pool at the bottom of the horse's legs and get stuck there! Since the frog has such important jobs we have to make sure we are keeping the frog healthy and protected through regular grooming and picking of the hoof.

A lot of our horses really enjoy having their hooves picked, and with permission and help from an instructor you can help pick hooves too!

Now that we have learned the different parts of the hoof, it's your turn to identify where each part of the hoof is!

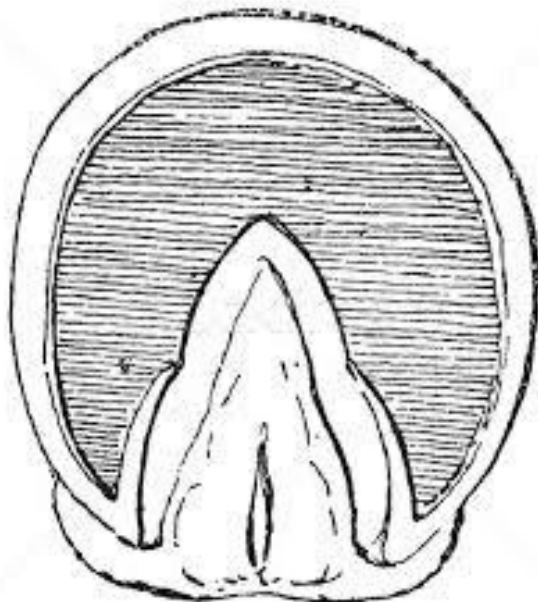
Color the heel **BLUE**

Color the toe **RED**

Color the frog **GREEN**

Color the sole **YELLOW**

Color the hoof wall **ORANGE**



1. Write the name of the substance that the hoof wall (and our fingernails!) are made out of next to the hoof wall.
2. Turn the frog of the hoof into a Tree Frog by drawing eyes, a nose, a mouth and legs!
3. What are the two jobs a horse's frog does to keep the horse healthy?
4. What part of the horse's hoof can become bruised by stones? Draw a big purple bruise on that part.
5. What are two parts of the horse's foot that have the same name on our own feet?

## ANSWERS

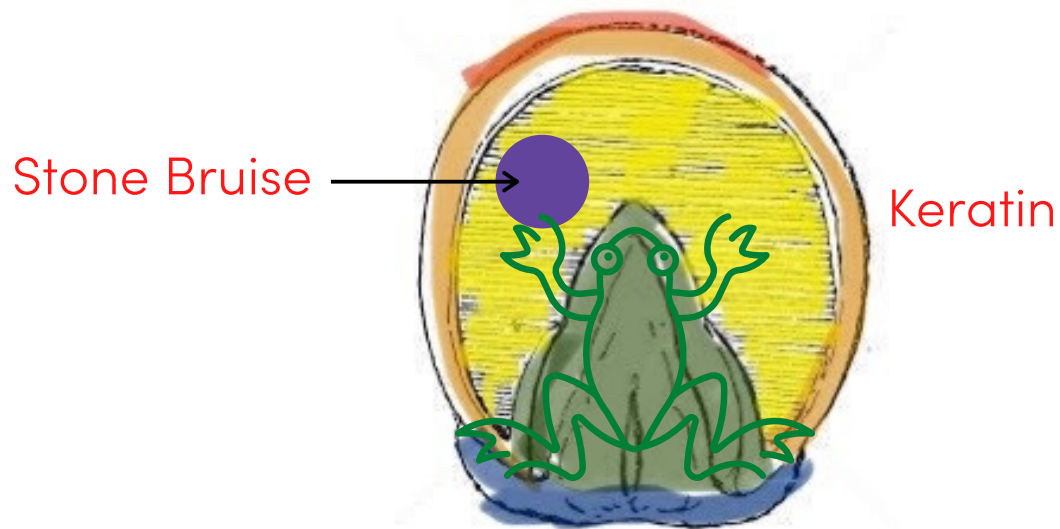
Color the heel **BLUE**

Color the toe **RED**

Color the frog **GREEN**

Color the sole **YELLOW**

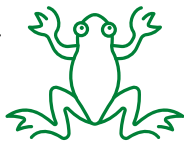
Color the hoof wall **ORANGE**



1. Write the name of the substance that the hoof wall (and our fingernails!) are made out of next to the hoof wall.

- **Keratin**

2. Turn the frog of the hoof into a Tree Frog by drawing eyes, a nose, a mouth and legs!



3. What are the two jobs a horse's frog does to keep the horse healthy?

- **Acts as a cushion for the foot/leg and helps pump blood up the horses leg.**

4. What part of the horses hoof can become bruised by stones? Draw a big purple bruise on that part.

- **The sole**

5. What are two parts of the horse's foot that have the same name on our own feet?

- **Heel and toe (sole is also acceptable)**