



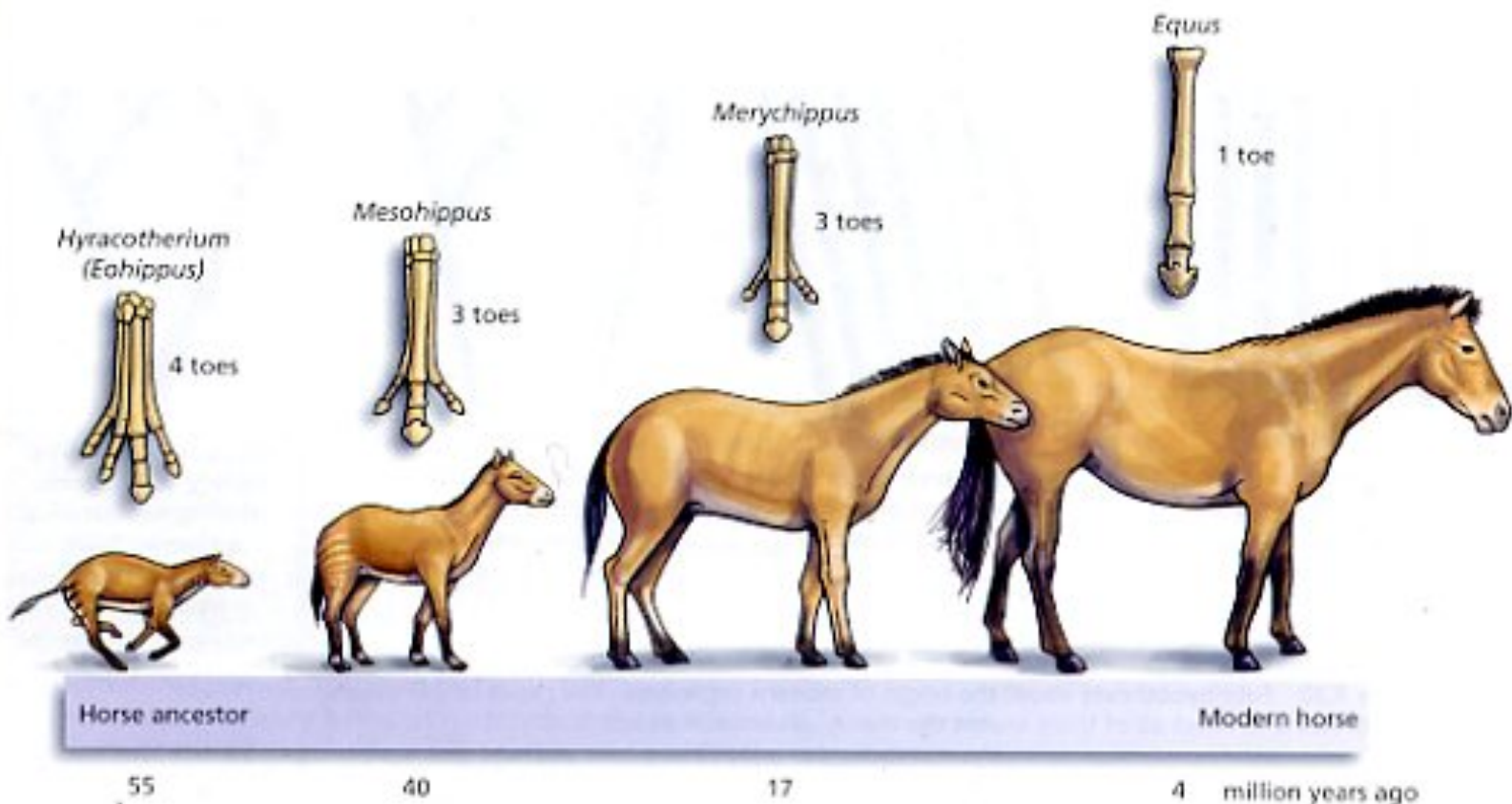
HORSE HISTORY THE EOhippus

Just like humans, horses had prehistoric ancestors that looked very different from the horses we see at JHTR. The oldest horse known by scientists was called an Eohippus. The Eohippus lived 55 million years ago. This animal had four toes, was about the size of a fox, and ate shrubby bushes and leaves. Scientists nicknamed the Eohippus the “Dawn Horse” because it was the very first horse to exist.

Over millions of years the Dawn Horse adapted, or changed, to survive best in their environment. The horse grew larger until it was the size of our modern horses, it lost its toes and grew a single hoof on each foot, and its diet changed to eat more grasses and legumes. The horse continued to evolve until it was a new species called an Equus. The Equus species is 2-3 million years old. The Equus is also known as the “modern horse” and it is the same type of horse you ride at JHTR!

Below is a link to a video that talks about the different ancestors of the horse and how they adapted, or changed, to survive in their environment!

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH VIDEO](#)



CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING:

Do you remember the difference between the Eohippus and the Equus? Match the descriptions to the correct species!

“Modern Horse”

“Dawn Horse”

Size of a fox

Size of today’s horse

4 toes per leg

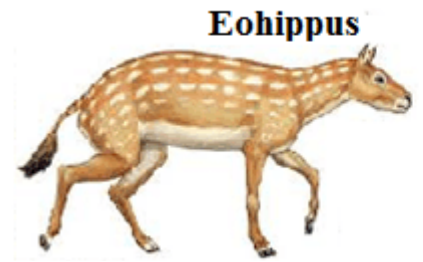
1 hoof per leg

eats shrubby bushes & leaves

eats grasses & legumes

55 million years old

2-3 million years old



ANSWERS

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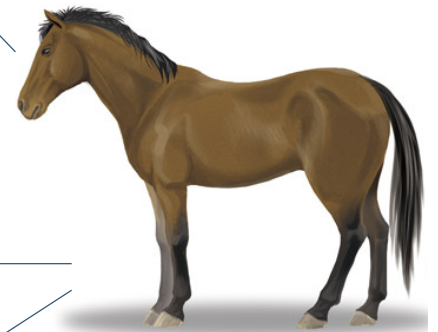
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Eohippus



Equus