

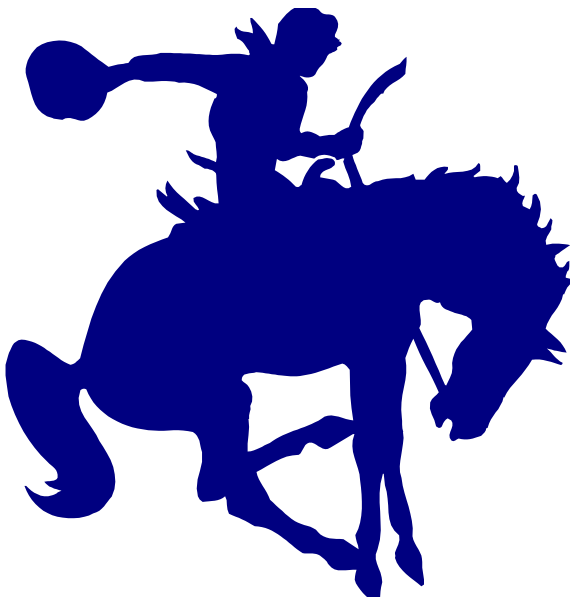
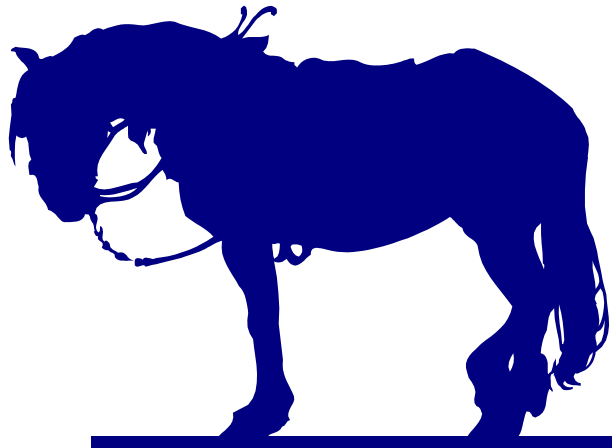
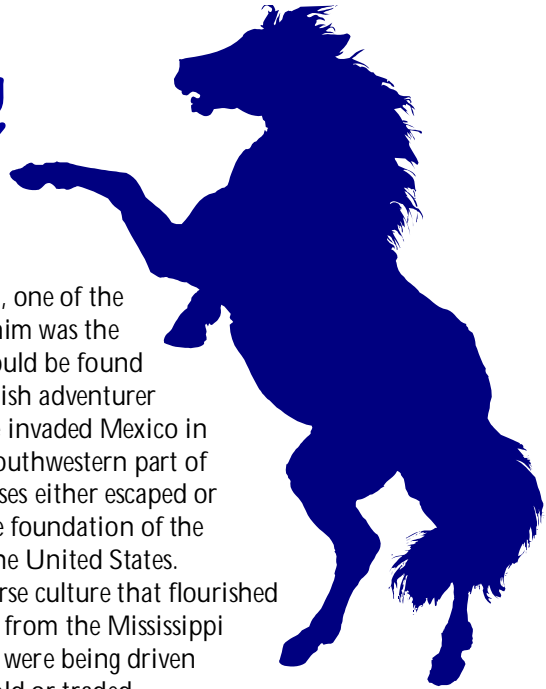
# The Horse In America

On his second voyage to the new world in 1494, one of the cargo items that Christopher Columbus brought with him was the horse - 24 stallions and 10 mares. By 1511, the horse could be found in Cuba as well as other islands in the Caribbean. Spanish adventurer Hernan Cortez's brought horses with his army when he invaded Mexico in 1519. As he explored and conquered Mexico and the southwestern part of what would become the United States, some of the horses either escaped or were stolen by Native Americans. These horses were the foundation of the herds of wild horses that roamed the Western part of the United States.

The horse became the backbone of the great horse culture that flourished on the central plains of the United States that stretches from the Mississippi River to the Rocky Mountains. As early as 1717, horses were being driven out of what is now the State of Texas to Illinois to be sold or traded.

When Lewis and Clark crossed the Rocky Mountains in the early 1800s, they traded with the Snake Indians for horses.

The horse also played a vital role in both the Union and Confederate armies during the American Civil War. In the last half of the 1800s, the horse became the primary means of transportation for settlers headed West and for the cowboys that herded cattle from Texas to the railheads in Kansas to be shipped East to feed the growing nation.



The horse continues to play a vital role in American culture. Cattlemen from Florida to Hawaii still use the horse to herd cattle. The horse is an integral part of Rodeo, which is one of the fastest growing sports in this country, and families in all 50 states enjoy riding, racing, breeding and showing horses.