

# PAWS Reading Grade 4 Released Items With Data



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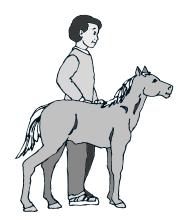
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Imagine that your class is studying unusual pets. Read "Horse or Pony?" as if you were going to give a report about one unusual pet. After reading the passage, answer the questions as if you were working on your report.

**Horse or Pony?** 



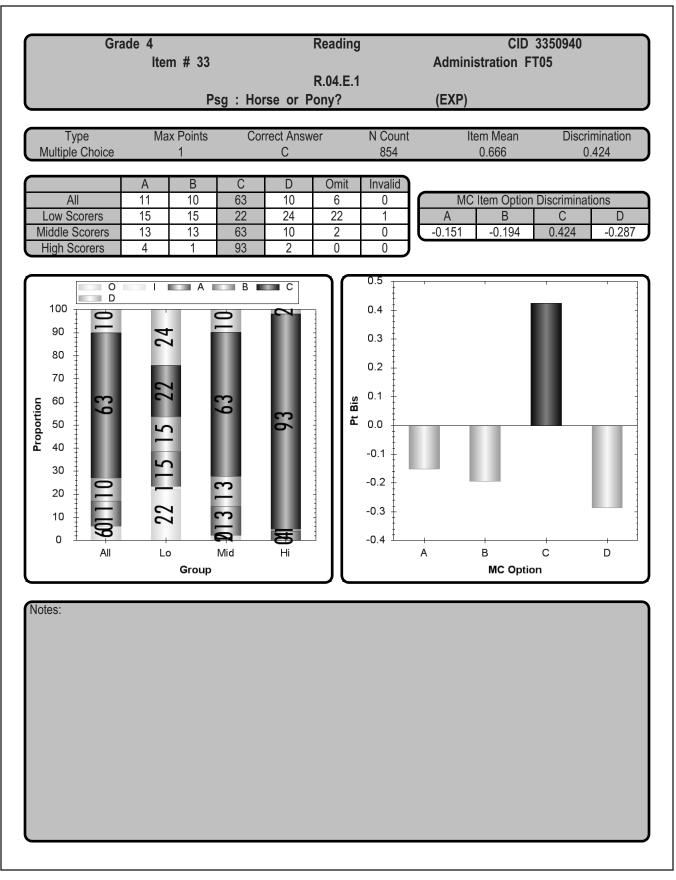
- <sup>1</sup> Have you ever seen a baby horse so small that you could pick it up all by yourself? There is a special kind of horse that is small, and it is not a pony. It is called a miniature horse. When a miniature horse is born, it weighs only 20 pounds or less and is only between 16 and 20 inches tall. Many dogs are bigger than baby miniature horses!
- 2 Miniature horses are different from ponies and regular horses in many ways. One of the main differences is their height. All kinds of horses and ponies are measured in "hands" and inches. A hand is equal to about four inches. Most horses are 15.1 or more hands tall. That means that they are 15 hands and 1 inch tall. Most ponies are shorter than 14.2 hands. Miniature horses are less than 8.2 hands, or 34 inches, tall. That is shorter than the height of a yardstick!
- Another difference between miniature horses and ponies is their weight. For example, an adult Shetland pony weighs about 300 pounds. Adult miniature horses weigh between 100 and 225 pounds. Ponies are very strong. They can carry or pull weight that is much heavier than they are. Miniature horses cannot carry as much weight as ponies can. To ride a miniature horse, you must weigh 60 pounds or less. However, miniature horses can pull more weight than they can carry. Many people like to ride in small carts pulled by miniature horses.

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- <sup>4</sup> In addition, newborn miniature horses look different from newborn ponies. A baby pony's body and legs look much the same as they will when the pony is an adult, but the miniature horse is born with long, gangly legs. At this stage of its life, its legs are too long for its body. However, the miniature horse's body will grow much faster than its legs. Therefore, once the miniature horse is fully grown, its legs will fit its body perfectly. Also, with its short legs, a pony walks with short, quick steps. The miniature horse, with its longer legs, walks with longer and more graceful steps.
- 5 Some people raise miniature horses to be pets. They are very gentle animals, and people of all ages like to play with them. Their small size makes them safe for children. Some miniature horses are even being trained to work with blind people.
- 6 Some people raise miniature horses to compete in horse shows. To compete in official American Miniature Horse shows, a miniature horse must be just the right size. For example, a weanling is a young horse that begins to eat grass and grain rather than nurse from its mother. When it becomes a weanling, a miniature horse must be no taller than 30 inches. On its first birthday, the miniature horse can be no taller than 32 inches. By the time the horse is five years old, it can be no taller than 34 inches. The smallest miniature horse on record was only 14 inches high and weighed about 20 pounds. His name was Pumpkin.
- To compete in American Miniature Horse shows, a miniature horse's body must look like a regular horse's body instead of like a pony's body. Ponies usually have short legs and chubby bodies. Their bellies are very round, and they have short, thick necks. A miniature horse is not shaped like a pony at all. Its legs are just the right length for its sleek body. Its neck is neither thick nor short.
- 8 Whether they are raised as pets or as show animals, all miniature horses are beautiful animals.

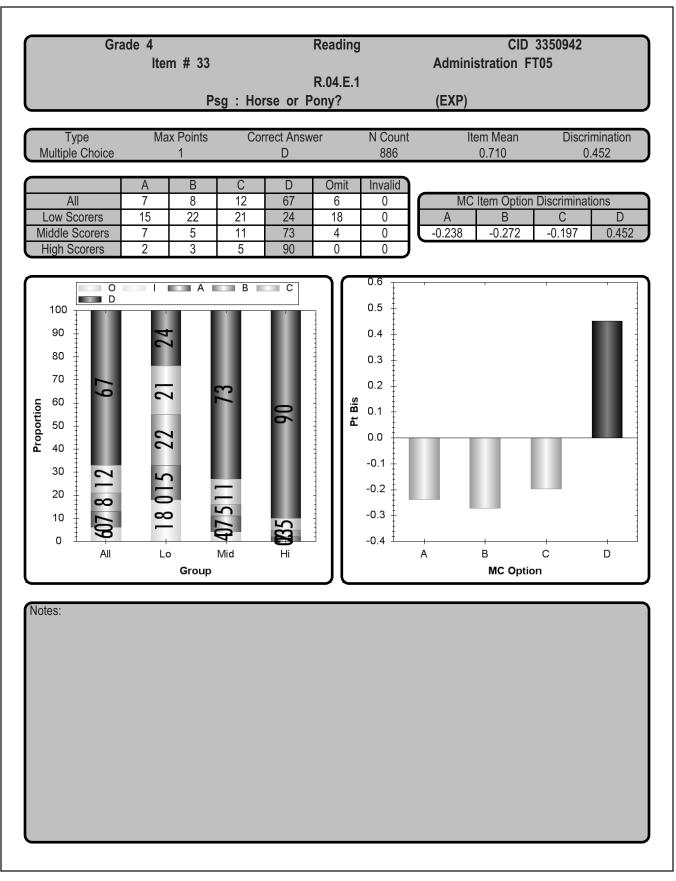
## According to the passage, which is true for <u>both</u> ponies and miniature horses?

- **A.** They walk with short steps.
- **B.** They are trained to work with blind people.
- **C.** They are measured in hands.
- **D.** They weigh about 300 pounds when they are adults.



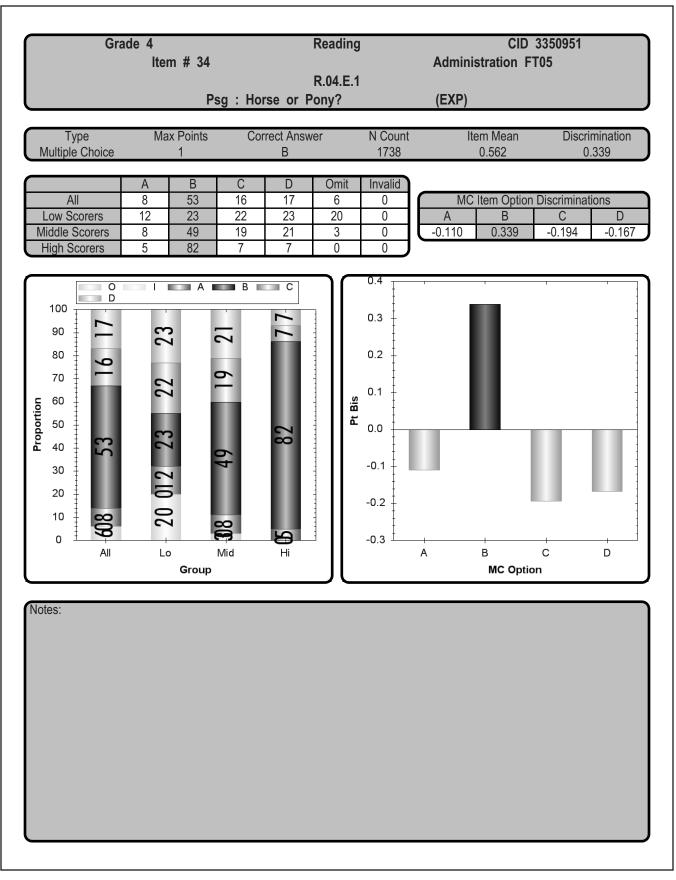
### Which information from the passage shows that miniature horses are not as strong as ponies?

- **A.** Miniature horses are less than 34 inches tall.
- **B.** The smallest miniature horse was 14 inches tall.
- **C.** Miniature horses weigh between 100 and 225 pounds.
- **D.** Miniature horses can carry riders that weigh 60 pounds or less.



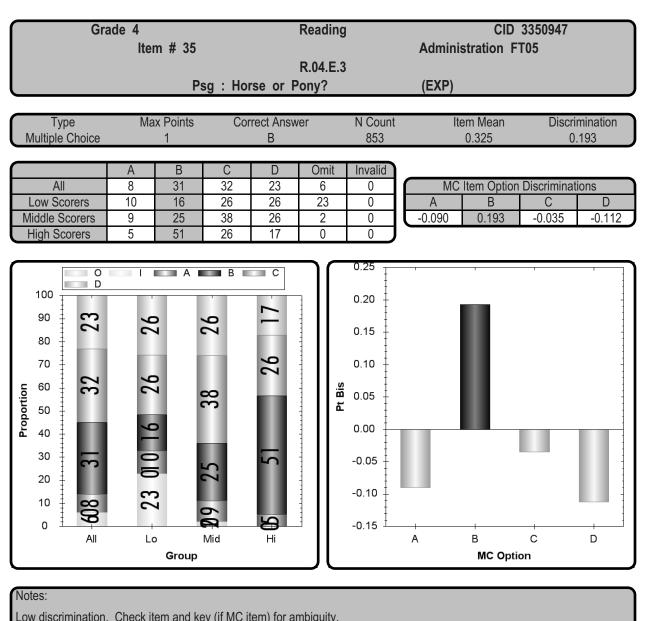
### What would be the best heading for Paragraph 6?

- A. "Special Food for a Weanling"
- **B.** "The Right Size for Horse Shows"
- C. "The Smallest Miniature Horse on Record"
- **D.** "Miniature Horses and Ponies"



## What is the purpose of the rules for American Miniature Horse shows?

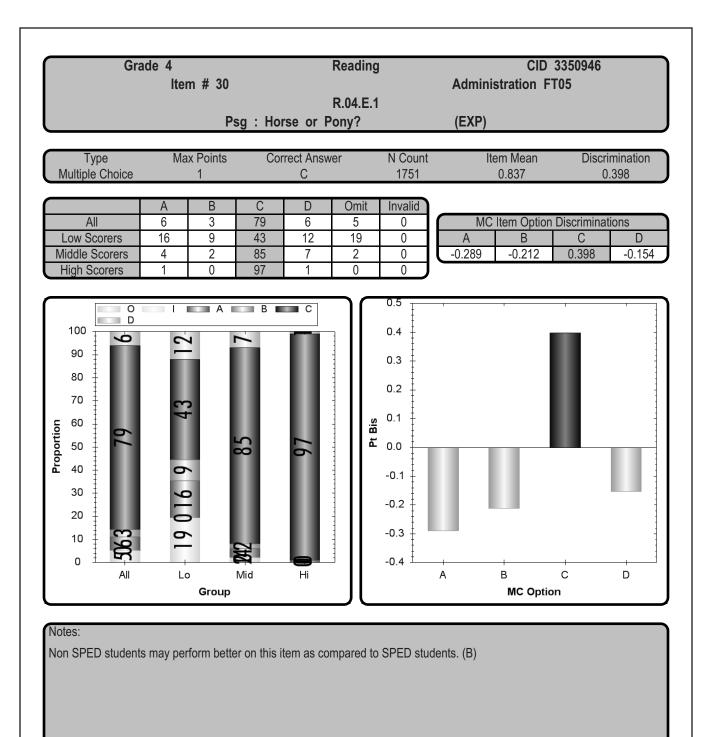
- **A.** To help get the best judges for shows
- **B.** To keep out miniature horses that are too big
- **C.** To help judges tell the difference between horses and ponies
- **D.** To keep from making miniature horses carry too much weight



Low discrimination. Check item and key (if MC item) for ambiguity.

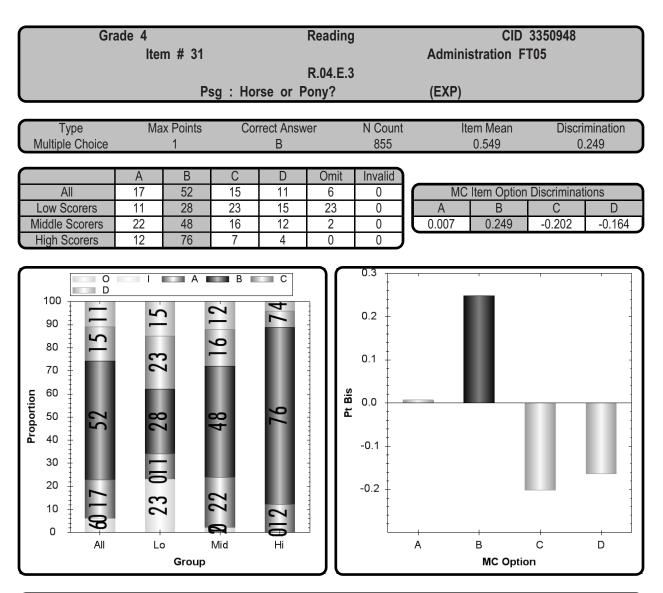
#### What is the main idea of this passage?

- **A.** How miniature horses compete in horse shows
- **B.** How ponies are stronger than miniature horses
- **C.** How miniature horses and ponies are different
- **D.** How ponies and miniature horses look when they are born



### Which person should choose a pony instead of a miniature horse?

- A. An adult who wants a pet to pull a cart
- **B.** An adult who wants a pet to ride
- **C.** An adult who wants a pet to play with children
- **D.** An adult who wants a pet to work with blind people



#### Notes:

Low discrimination. Check item and key (if MC item) for ambiguity.

Option A has positive discrimination. Check option for ambiguity/correctness.

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