

Merlin Bonus Activities

Free printable activities for curious kids who love horses.



Inspired by Life Cycle of a Horse: Merlin's Journey of a Lifetime

Read • Explore • Aspire • Learn

Welcome to Merlin Bonus Activities!

REAL EQ means Read • Explore • Aspire • Learn.

Horses use body language to communicate. They show how they are feeling through their ears, eyes, heads, feet, posture, movement, and the space they keep around them.

In this packet, you will look closely at Merlin and Presence and practice noticing small clues. You will sequence photos, match clues, fill in thought bubbles, color a pasture scene, and build REAL EQ through careful observation.

When kids learn to notice before they act, they become safer, calmer, and wiser learners around horses.

Safety reminder:
Children should learn about and work around horses with guidance from a parent, teacher, instructor, or an experienced adult.

Merlin's Safety Check: What Happens Next?

Look closely at Merlin and Presence.
Number the photos 1, 2, and 3 in the order you think they happened.
Then match each photo with a body-language clue.

Choose one clue for each photo: Safe and relaxed • Curious • Checking for safety



Number:

Body-language clue:



Number:

Body-language clue:



Number:

Body-language clue:

What Did Merlin Notice?

Fill in the thought bubbles. What might Merlin or Presence be thinking?

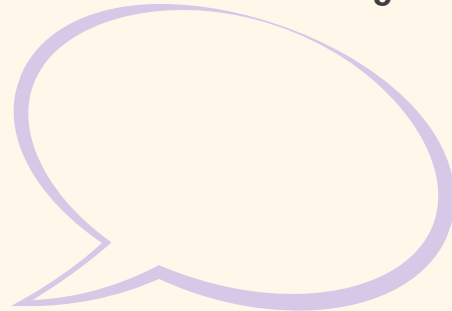
What body-language clue helped you decide which photo came last?



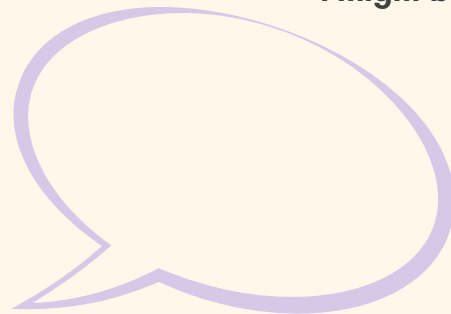
I might be thinking...



I might be thinking...

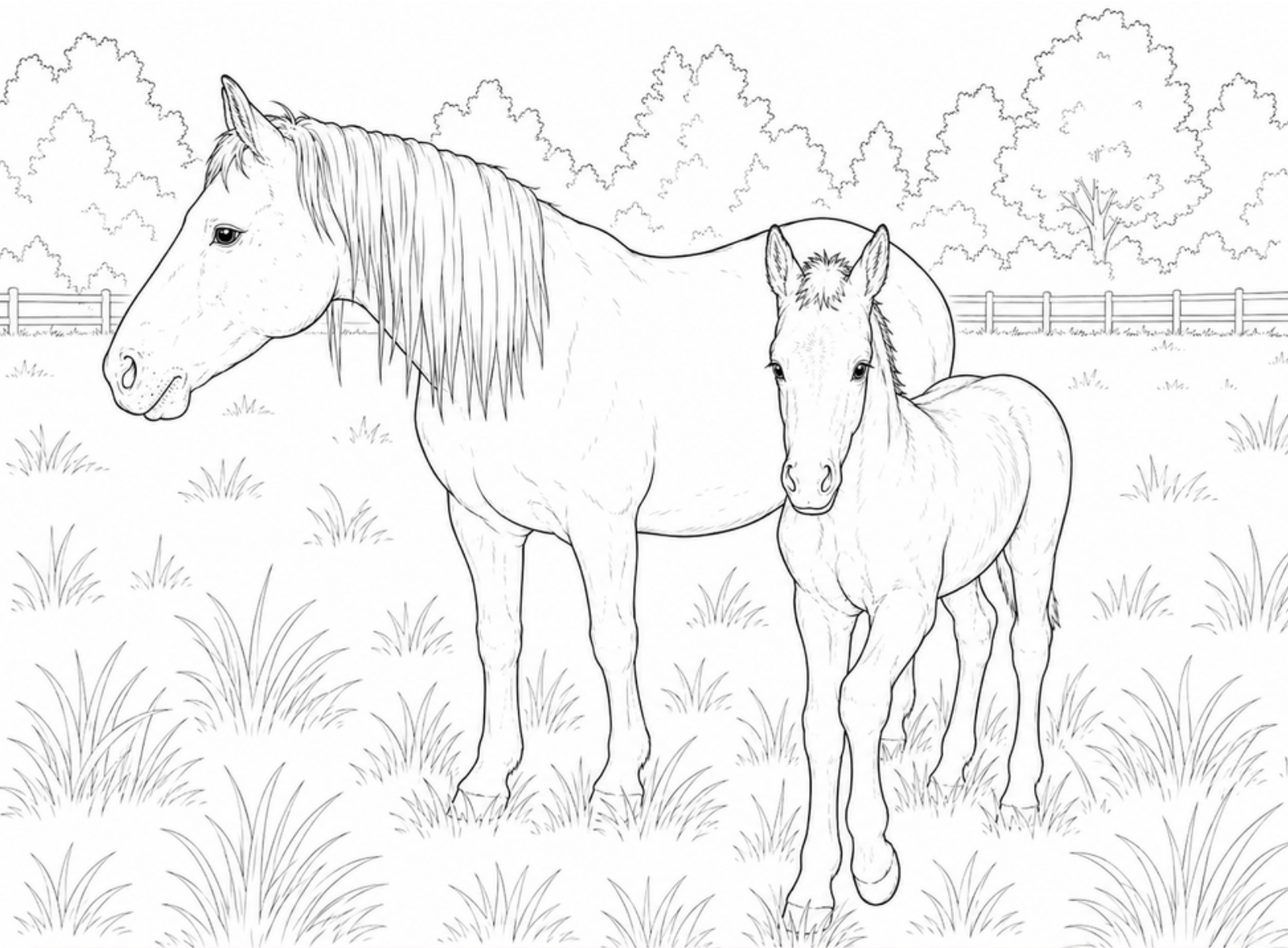


I might be thinking...



Color Merlin and Presence

Color Merlin the foal and Presence his dam in a beautiful fenced pasture.
Then write what body language you notice.



One thing I notice: _____

Careful Observation with Merlin and Presence

Look closely at the photo. Fill in the blanks below.



Fill in the blanks using the words below...

Merlin is called a _____.
Presence is Merlin's _____.
They are standing in a _____.
There is a _____ around the _____.
Presence's color is _____.
Merlin is learning to _____.



eat grass * gray * dam * foal * pasture * fence

Name: _____

Date: _____

TITLE:

Merlin lifted his head and stopped grazing. His ears pointed toward something beyond the pasture. Presence raised her head too and stood quietly beside him.

For a moment, both horses watched and listened.

What might they have noticed? What happens next?

Task Directions

Write a short story about Merlin and Presence.

Include:

- something they notice
- at least two body-language clues
- what happens next
- how a careful observer responds

Remember: We can observe a horse's body language, but we cannot know exactly what the horse is thinking.



Continue your story here:

Remember to include what Merlin and Presence noticed, the body-language clues you observed, and what happened next.

Then use the remainder of this page for writing.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. In the bottom-left corner, there is a small, stylized yellow chess knight icon. The rest of the page is completely blank.

Merlin's Safe Observer Promise

Horses use body language to communicate clues about how they may be feeling.
A safe observer learns to pause, notice, and ask for help before acting.

I can become safer with horses when I:

(Check all that apply)

- ☐ observe before I act
- ☐ watch ears, eyes, head, feet, tail, and posture
- ☐ give horses plenty of space and stay where they can see me
- ☐ move calmly and quietly near horses
- ☐ remember that every horse is an individual
- ☐ ask a parent, teacher, instructor, or experienced adult for help

My Safe Observer Promise:

I will practice observing and noticing body language before I act.

One promise I want to remember:

Keep Learning with Merlin

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Visit RiseUp EQ for more horse-centered activities, workbook previews, reading resources, and family-friendly learning fun.

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- reading rewards
- new RiseUp EQ learning resources

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Safety Reminder:

Children should learn about and work around horses with guidance from a parent, trainer, instructor, or experienced adult.

Answer Key / Grown-Up Guide

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Merlin's Safety Check

- Number 1 — bottom photo: Safe and relaxed
- Number 2 — top photo: Curious
- Number 3 — middle photo: Checking for safety

What Did Merlin Notice?

Answers will vary. Look for responses tied to visible clues without claiming exactly what the horses are thinking.

Color Merlin and Presence

Answers will vary. Encourage observations about ears, heads, posture, grazing, distance, or setting.

Careful Observation

foal, dam, pasture, fence, pasture, gray, eat grass

Creative Story

Look for at least two body-language clues, a clear next event, and a response showing that a careful observer pauses, keeps a safe distance, and asks an experienced adult for help.

Safe Observer Promise

All boxes should be checked. The goal is pausing, watching, giving space, moving calmly, and asking an experienced adult for help.

Keep Learning & Safety Reminder

Children should learn about horses and work around them only with guidance from a parent, teacher, instructor, or experienced adult.



CERTIFICATE

of Achievement:

This certificate is proudly presented to

.....
Your Name

**for completing the
Merlin Bonus Activities
and practicing observation, body-language
awareness, creative thinking, and safety.**

