

Name: _____

The Maritimes Working Pony

By Lisa Hart

They are as rugged as their maritime home and its people. The Newfoundland pony is beloved for its strength, courage, and common sense. It is a valued part of the province's history.



be shades of black, gray, and



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This created a sturdy new breed. The sure-footed new pony was well-suited to the climate along the North Atlantic.

Newfoundland ponies stand about 3.5 to 4.5 feet tall (about 105–140 cm). They weigh between 400 and 800 pounds (180–360 kg). They have thick manes, low-set tails, and stone-hard hooves. While often shades of brown, they can also

farmers and fishermen. Ponies pulled plows, carts, and wagons full of wood, rocks, and fishing nets. Others worked in the mines and wood mills.

Owners used to turn their ponies out to fend for themselves when not working. This saved them money. The ponies formed herds and lived wild off the land for months. The loyal ponies would then be called back to

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work when needed.

Over time, modern machines began to put Newfoundland's pony out of work. Owners faced pressure to stop their ponies from breeding. New anti-roaming laws kept them from turning their ponies out when not in use. Some owners couldn't afford to care for their ponies year-round. The meat truck offered the best price for those looking to sell.

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In 1997, the province passed an act to protect the Newfoundland pony. Now owners need a permit to take a pony out of the province. This helps make sure they only go to good homes and breeders. The act also put in place a process to register, promote, and protect the breed. These duties are handled by the Newfoundland Pony Society.

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1. Which of the following best describes the author's purpose?
 - a. To explain why horses and ponies are useful animals.
 - b. To persuade you the Newfoundland pony is the best pony.
 - c. To tell the story of a Newfoundland pony's life.
 - d. To teach about the Newfoundland pony and its history.
2. What is the Newfoundland Pony Society responsible for?

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4. Paragraph three describes physical traits of the Newfoundland pony. Pick two and explain why these might be good adaptations for the ponies' North Atlantic home.

5. Which statement about the Newfoundland pony is true?
 - a. It is adapted for living in hot, dry environments.
 - b. It is a hard worker, but difficult to train.
 - c. It is the result of crossbreeding other ponies.
 - d. It needs humans to survive.

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The scrambled words below are vocabulary words from the article. Unscramble each word and write it on the line. Please be sure each word is spelled correctly.

1. _____ l i c t a m e
clue: weather conditions over time
2. _____ d e n f
clue: to take care of



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6. _____ o r p t o m e
clue: to put forward in a positive light
7. _____ y o l l a
clue: being faithful to something
8. _____ p o r c e t t
clue: to purposefully defend or take care of
9. _____ s e r p r u s e
clue: outside forces trying to cause change
10. _____ d a p a d e t
clue: changed to be better suited for something

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In the article, "The Maritimes Working Pony," you read about the Newfoundland pony and how people have used it over time.

Using details from the text, explain why the title of the article is an accurate description. Make sure to mention at least two things the Newfoundland pony was used for and what made the pony good for those purposes.



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ANSWER KEY

The Maritimes Working Pony



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9. pressure

s e r p r u s e

clue: outside forces trying to cause change

10. adapted

d a p a d e t

clue: changed to be better suited for something