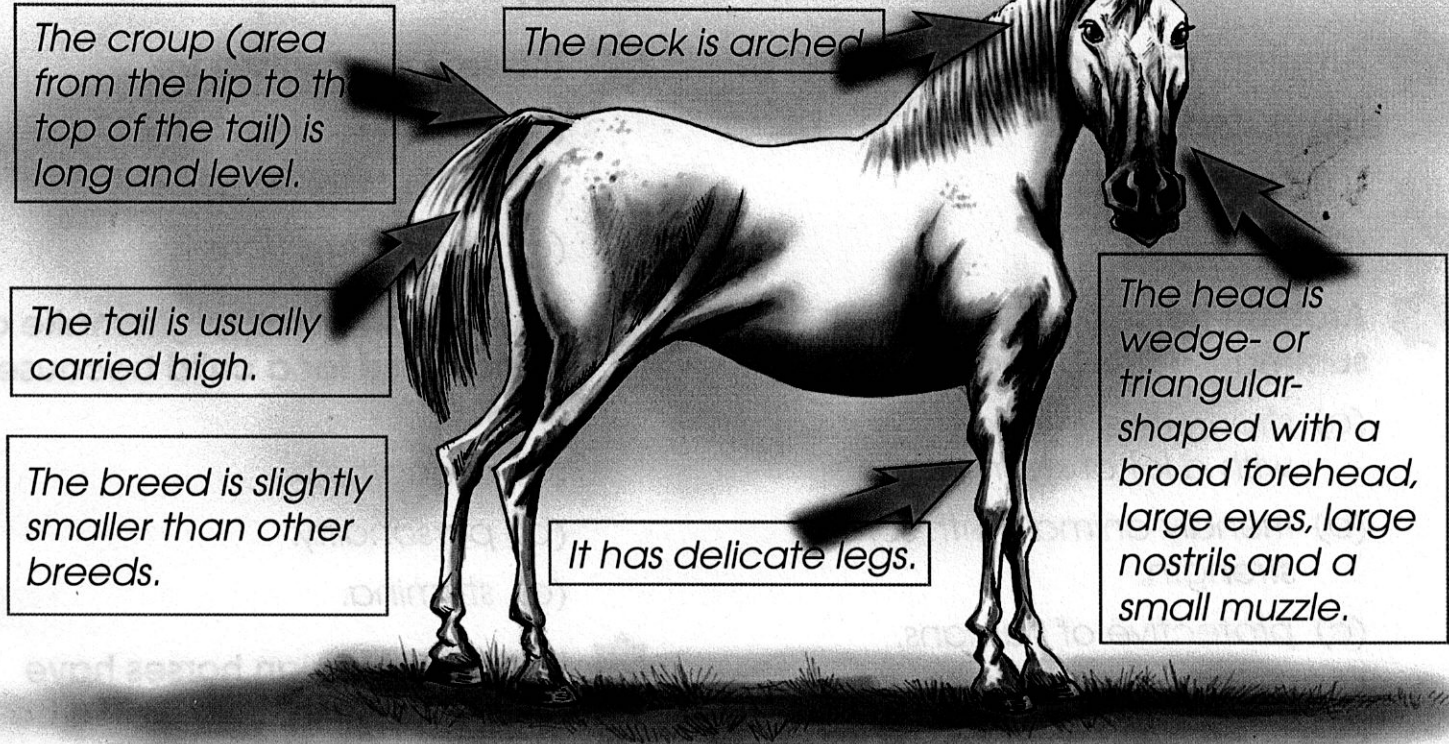


Desert beauty

1. There are many different breeds of horses. One of the oldest and most easily recognised breeds is the Arabian horse.
2. You can recognise an Arabian by a number of features:



3. The Arabian breed gets its name from the deserts of Arabia. To survive in this harsh environment, these horses had to have a lot of endurance and stamina. This means they have the energy and strength to keep going over long distances, often with little food or water. Arabians are well known for their ability to run far and fast.
4. The nomadic Bedouin people, who moved from place to place in the deserts of Arabia, kept and greatly valued Arabian horses. They often brought them inside their family tents for shelter and protection. From this close relationship with humans, Arabian horses have developed other special traits. They can be quite affectionate, willing to please and protective of humans. They are also very intelligent and quick to learn.
5. Although Arabian horses are small compared to other breeds, they are strong and can easily carry heavy riders. Arabian horses can be chestnut, grey, bay (reddish-brown body colour with a black mane, tail, ear edges and lower legs) or black in colour.
6. These horses are used today for riding, showing, endurance racing and other racing. They have been ridden in many wars and have inspired books and movies (such as the book and movie *The black stallion*).