

CrossTalk

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2014

Straight from the Horse's mouth

Horses have been around for about 55 million years, much longer than humans. It was from about this time that they began their evolutionary journey in North America. Back then they were about the size of a small dog (only 20-35 cm tall) and looked very different to today's modern horses.

They have gone through many changes on their long journey through time and their physical transformation over the eons has been extraordinary. They died out in the Americas about 10,000 years ago, only to be reintroduced to that continent by man millennia later. Indeed, it is their relationship with humans that has perhaps been the most momentous event of their entire history.

Humans first domesticated horses some 6,000 years ago and by about 3,000 BC it is believed that the horse had become an integral part of human societies throughout most of the known world. However, it appears from archeological evidence that early hominids were hunting horses for food as much as 500,000 years ago. Even to this day, horse meat is consumed as food in some parts of the world.

Of course, today horses are much more than mere food for people. Because of their speed and strength, humans have been employing our long-legged friends in numerous ways for a long time.



These animals remained essential in many human societies until the advent of the engine. Horses still hold a place of honor in many cultures, often linked to heroic exploits in war. But there is also the loyal, hard working draft horse that has plowed fields for the farmer and helped him grow crops. There are

carriage and wagon pulling horses that have given us great mobility over the centuries. We still race horses; we show them; and we jump them. In fact we do so much with horses that it is impossible to imagine human society without them.

Horses have influenced us beyond just the physical world too. They have entered the realms of our imagination. They have, through myths and legends, existed for thousands of years as powerful symbols helping to guide humanity. Think of the Unicorn, a mythical creature said to have the ability to distinguish between truth and lies. And Pegasus, a winged legend symbolizing, as some researchers have suggested, the spiritual energy needed to lift mankind up into the heavens (to a higher state). The Centaur has symbolized man's inner struggle between his base instincts and his higher intellect since early Greek times. However you look at it, the horse has been an essential part of human evolution, as humans have been to the horses'.



Net News

NET LESSONS: Are you too busy to come to CROSSROADS?...Try our *lessons on the Internet!*

SITE OF THE MONTH:

You can find *everything* about horses here:
www.amnh.org/exhibitions/past-exhibitions/horse

Happy New Year for this Year of the Horse!

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: Another year has passed and we are entering a new year once again. At this time of the year, I am reminded of the old adage, “the only constant is change”. And this year, we are going to see even greater changes than usual. For those who haven’t heard yet, we are moving to Ichi-bancho in March. This will be an exciting time for us and I’m eagerly looking forward to it. There’ll be more details in next month’s NL, and you can find out more from Junko.

Junko Says: The 2014 Oscar nominations have been announced. If you search for “Oscar Nominations” with Google, you’ll find all the films in each category listed. And if you’d like to see any of them, just type “watch” plus the movie title in the search engine. Usually you can get several links to the movie you want. You may find that it’s easier to understand English watching a movie without Japanese subtitles.



Kenneth Says: We had an enjoyable Christmas holiday with my mom here visiting Japan from Calgary, Canada. We took her to many sites in Shikoku (Matsuyama Castle, Dougo, Sadamisaki, a beach in Hojo, Imabari and a quick trip across the Kurushima-Kaikyo bridge to Oshima). The days were warm for the most part so that we even went barefoot on a beach at Hojo.

Adrienne Says: Continuing with the theme of marriage between men and women, Dr. Love says that problems develop primarily because men are vulnerable to the feeling of “shame”, that is, they feel terrible when they think they have failed at something. Woman, on the other hand, are vulnerable to the feeling of “fear” of being emotionally isolated, materially deprived, and physically harmed.



Stephanie Dit: Bonne année 2014 !!! Que cette nouvelle année vous apporte santé, joie et bonheur ! Janvier est le mois des bonnes résolutions. Quelle est la vôtre ? Faire plus de sport ? Manger plus sainement ? Economiser pour vos projets ? Les favorites des Français... Mais comme Janvier est aussi le mois de la raclette, des crêpes et des soldes, ces résolutions sont souvent vite oubliées !

NOTICE BOARD

Happy New Year



to all our students and friends

Pet's Corner

This year you might find yourself occasionally thinking about horses - after all, this *is* The Year of the Horse . And as you contemplate these marvelous creatures, has the thought of having one as a pet ever crossed your mind? "Yes, but they are too big for my apartment," you might say. Well, for true horse lovers, space should not be a problem when it comes to a miniature horse. These little fellows really love to interact with people and other pets, as you can see from the photos here. So, what do you think about adopting a house-horse as a pet?!



Don't forget... Our **SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!**

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.