

# CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2026

## A Horse of Course!

What symbol speaks to mankind of freedom, loyalty and companionship; of strength, power, bravery; tells of heroic journeys and adventures; acts as a guardian; connects mankind to the Gods; embodies wisdom, mystery and sometimes is even a harbinger of danger and evil forces? In short, what symbol embodies both the divine and the dangerous in our imagination, and has done so for thousands of years?

Most cultures where this symbol appears have been inspired by a creature that has shared mankind's environment for millennia - from our earliest days of cave-dwelling to living with skyscrapers. At first, this creature was simply food for men, then beasts of burden, then revered symbols – divine or otherwise.

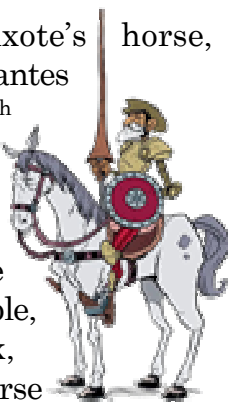
Of course, it's a horse!

Horses have appeared for thousands of years in folktales, poems, sculptures and other depictions, in literature from ancient times to modern and have, in art and imagination, been used to symbolize many of the attributes mentioned above.

Take for example, Don Quixote's horse, Rocinante, from Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra's famous early 17<sup>th</sup> Century novel, symbolizing loyalty, companionship and endurance.

Or, take a more recent example, Shadowfax, Gandalf's horse from the "Lord of the Rings," famous for his incredible speed and intelligence.

These days, even horses' shoes are used as symbols of luck!



Rocinante and Shadowfax are modern examples of man's ideals embodied in horse symbolism, but these modern examples have much older

predecessors that have been with us since antiquity.

From Greco-Roman times, Europeans have revered **Pegasus** as a symbol of freedom, inspiration and humanity's aspirations to rise above our earthly confines and soar towards the divine; and to freedom!

The **Unicorn** symbolizes purity, innocence, freedom and independence, healing and protection, magic and divine guidance.

Another in our collection of horse symbols (in this case, half-horse symbol) is the **Centaur**. This guy represents the duality of human nature – on the one hand, wisdom and, on the other, the antithesis of civilization; wild, uncontrollable lust.

Then, all the way to the dark side, we have the malevolent **Kelpie** from Scottish folklore, the original nightmare – mare, in English, meaning female horse.

2026

Whatever symbol you fancy for the year, we wish you.....

HAPPY NEW YEAR



## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here are 9 mythical horses for you to check out:

<https://www.willowbrookridingcentre.co.uk/mythical-horse-creatures/>



# Some Thoughts for the Month

## HAPPY NEW YEAR



## FROM EVERYONE AT CROSSROADS

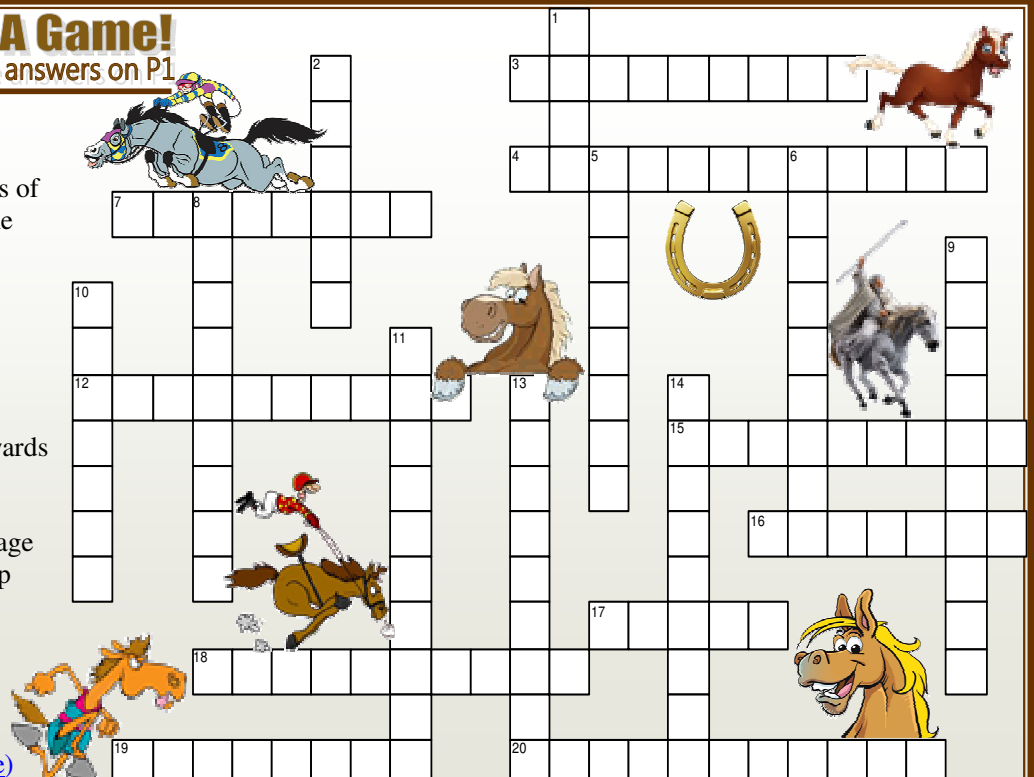
### ACROSS

- 3 stories passed on word-of-mouth
- 4 those coming before
- 7 a place to live in
- 12 the quality or characteristics of
- 15 extremely old period of time
- 16 greatly honored
- 17 having a liking for
- 18 wishing evil on others
- 19 boundaries
- 20 things greatly desired

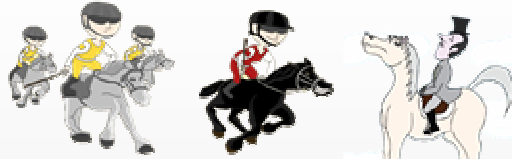
### DOWN

- 1 rapidly rising or flying upwards
- 2 heavenly
- 5 represents
- 6 represent, usually by an image
- 8 power to withstand hardship
- 9 exact opposite
- 10 having two parts
- 11 images
- 13 1,000 years
- 14 indicator of something coming

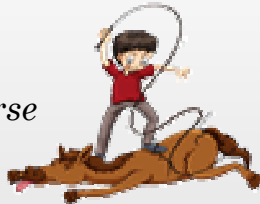
**Play A Game!**  
Find the answers on P1



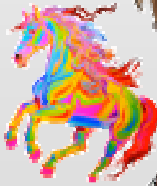
A) *Dark horse*



*B) Get off your high horse*



*D) Straight from the horse's mouth*



*F) Put the cart before the horse*



H) Eat like a horse



1. Stop being arrogant! (\_\_\_\_)

2. Wait, don't do it yet. (\_\_\_\_)

3. Something completely different  
(\_\_\_\_\_)

4. Eat a lot, eat too much. (\_\_\_\_)

5. Feeling very hungry (\_\_\_\_)

6. Waste time or energy (\_\_\_)

7. An unexpected winner (\_\_\_\_)

8. Direct information from the source (\_\_\_\_)



## ACROSS

3 most likely to unavoidable

7 greatly honored

8 represented by image or model

9 feeling very nervous

14 natural connection, attraction

15 contrary to expectation

16 spirits that assist witches

17 without pity

18 very unusual,

19 destroyed completely

20 displaying warmth and affection

**DOWN**

2 as a result

4 make known

5 a period of time

6 fanatic believers

10 motivate, encourage

11 intentionally

12 in a close, personal manner

13 within the range of hearing



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