

# Circle C Beginnings Activity Pages

## Content

The Circle C Beginnings books and activities guide can be used as a reading curriculum. The activities cover a wide range of historical and language arts-related topics:

- ⇒ Vocabulary and reading comprehension
- ⇒ Geography and map skills
- ⇒ Historical topics related to the 1870s: ranching, cowboys, one-room schoolhouses, 1874 school rules, dime novels, the Yokut Indians, steam trains, state fairs, the U.S. flag, McGuffey readers, “Jesus Love Me” song origin, “America” song, the Presidio fort in San Francisco, a Victorian Christmas
- ⇒ Math and science: egg math, tallying, Venn diagram, creek animals, blue-belly lizards, horse measuring, horse colors, pet care, steam engines
- ⇒ Language arts: write or narrate, Old West idioms, create a dime novel
- ⇒ Character and Bible: character ribbons, character traits, Bible verses
- ⇒ Crafts and “just for fun”: sugar cookies, weave a placemat, mazes, dot-to-dots
- ⇒ Answer key for all six books

## Pacing the Activities

Each book takes about 16 days to complete.

The (optional) Circle C Beginnings lapbook activities stretch that to about 24 days per book. It is available in Ebook (\$18) or Print (\$36) at [www.AndiandTaffy.com](http://www.AndiandTaffy.com) and covers all six books with unique learning activities not covered in these activity pages.

Assignments are scheduled by day rather than by week, so you can use either a four-day or a five-day school week.

The books are chronological, but they are also stand-alone stories and need not be read in order. (You can read *Andi's Circle C Christmas* during the holidays, for instance.)

**Note:** You have permission to copy as many pages from this study guide as you desire for your home or classroom. Not for resale.

Enjoy the adventure!

*Susan Marlow*





## Schedule for Book 1: *Andi's Pony Trouble*

\* indicates an optional activity found in the *Andi's Pony Trouble* lapbook.  
 (Lapbook activities **can be skipped** or purchased at [AndiandTaffy.com](http://AndiandTaffy.com))

<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 1</b>	<b>Day 2</b>	<b>Day 3</b>	<b>Day 4</b>
Book	"New Words" & Chapter 1	_____	Chapter 2	_____
Activities	Page 7 #1-3	* <i>Lapbook activity "About the Book"</i>	Page 7 #4-6	* <i>Lapbook activity Chapters 1-2</i>
<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 5</b>	<b>Day 6</b>	<b>Day 7</b>	<b>Day 8</b>
Book	Chapter 3	_____	_____	Chapter 4
Activities	Page 7 #7-9	Pages 8-9	Pages 10-11	Page 12 #1-3
<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 9</b>	<b>Day 10</b>	<b>Day 11</b>	<b>Day 12</b>
Book	_____	Chapter 5	Chapter 6	_____
Activities	* <i>Lapbook activity Chapters 3-4</i>	Page 12 #4-8	Page 12 #9-11	* <i>Lapbook activity Chapters 5-6</i>
<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 13</b>	<b>Day 14</b>	<b>Day 15</b>	<b>Day 16</b>
Book	_____	_____	Chapter 7	Chapter 8
Activities	Pages 13-14	Pages 15-16	Page 17 #1-2	Page 17 #3-4
<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 17</b>	<b>Day 18</b>	<b>Day 19</b>	<b>Day 20</b>
Book	_____	Chapter 9	Chapter 10	_____
Activities	* <i>Lapbook activity Chapters 7-8</i>	Page 17 #5-6	Page 17 #7-8	* <i>Lapbook activity Chapters 9-10</i>
<b><i>Andi's Pony Trouble</i></b>	<b>Day 21</b>	<b>Day 22</b>	<b>Day 23</b>	<b>Day 24</b>
Book	_____	_____	A Peek into the Past	_____
Activities	Pages 18-19	Pages 20-21	Page 23	* <i>Lapbook activity Prewriting</i>

# Andi's Pony Trouble Chapters 1-3

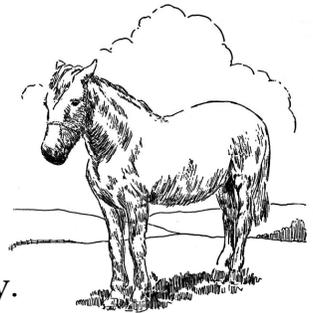
Read the chapters and answer the questions:

## Chapter 1

1. The main character is who the story is about. What is the name of the main character in this story? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What meal is Andi's family eating at the beginning of this chapter?
  - A. breakfast
  - B. lunch
  - C. supper
3. Andi is having a birthday soon. She will be \_\_\_\_\_ years old.

## Chapter 2

4. Look at the picture on page 16. Write the names of Andi's brothers and sister: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is the name of Andi's pony? \_\_\_\_\_
6. What does Andi want more than anything?
  - A. a puppy
  - B. a horse
  - C. a kitten



Color Andi's pony.

## Chapter 3

7. YES or NO (circle one). Andi takes good care of Coco, her pony.
8. What is Andi's chore?
  - A. collecting the eggs
  - B. cleaning her room
  - C. sweeping the floor
9. Henry the Eighth is a (circle one): dog • rooster • horse • hen

## New Words for Chapters 1-3

Word Match- Draw a line between the words and what they mean. If you need help, look at the New Words list on page 7 in *Pony Trouble*.

cattle

- a farm where people raise cattle and horses

ranch

- cows

coop

- pants

roundup

- a place where chickens are kept

britches

- when cowboys gather up the cattle to sell them



## More Fun with New Words

Use the words from the word box and the clues to fill in the missing words in these sentences from chapters 1-3.

1. Andi \_\_\_\_\_ at Chad. (frowned in a mean way)
2. Pretty soon she would not be riding that \_\_\_\_\_ old pony anymore. (very, very slow)
3. Andi did not want to ride a \_\_\_\_\_ pony anymore. (used by everyone, worn out)
4. Andi \_\_\_\_\_ down on the ground. (sank, fell)
5. "Mitch can \_\_\_\_\_ four eggs at a time!" (toss in the air)

### Word Box

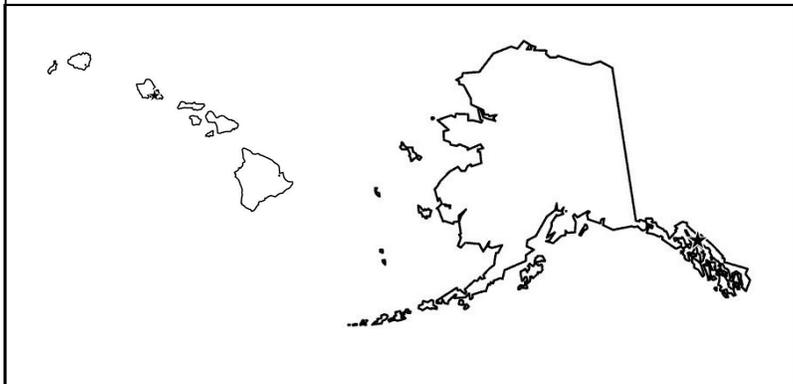
juggle      pokey      slumped      hand-me-down      scowled

# Where Does Andi Live?

Andi lives on a big cattle ranch in the state of California. She lives in 1874. That's *way* long ago! Look at the map of the United States. Can you find California? It is the long, narrow state right next to the Pacific Ocean. Color California red.

What state do you live in? \_\_\_\_\_

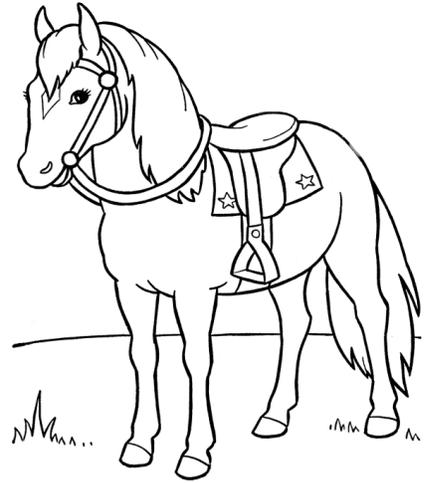
Color your state blue, unless you live in California!



# Taking care of Coco

Andi has to take care of Coco, her pony. Here are some of her chores:

- \* Brush Coco
- \* Give Coco water
- \* Make sure Coco has hay and grain
- \* Let Coco out in the pasture
- \* Ride Coco for exercise
- \* Check Coco's hooves for rocks and dirt
- \* Clean out Coco's stall



## Taking care of my pet



If you do not have a pet, think of a pet you would like to have.

My pet is a \_\_\_\_\_

My pet's name is \_\_\_\_\_

This is what I do to take care of my pet:

---

---

---

---

---

Draw a picture of your pet.

# Egg Math

Collecting the eggs is Andi's chore. Can you help her solve these problems?

1. Andi collected **18** eggs. **16** eggs broke.

How many eggs were left to give to Mother? \_\_\_\_\_ eggs



Hint: Draw 18 eggs. Cross out 16 broken eggs.

2. **25** hens, **15** baby chicks, and **1** rooster live on Andi's ranch.

How many chickens **in all** live on the ranch?

\_\_\_\_\_ chickens live on the ranch



3. Andi's favorite hen, Miss Cluck, sat on **12** eggs.

When Andi checked the next day, **8** fluffy chicks had hatched from the eggs.

How many eggs did **NOT** hatch?

\_\_\_\_\_ eggs did **NOT** hatch

4. At breakfast, Andi ate **2** eggs, Melinda ate **1** egg, Chad ate **3** eggs, and Mitch ate **2** eggs.

How many eggs did the family eat **in all**? \_\_\_\_\_ eggs

# Andi's Pony Trouble Chapters 4-6

Read the chapters and answer the questions:

## Chapter 4

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is Andi's friend. He chases the rooster away.
2. Circle the reasons why Andi does not like Henry the Eighth:  
he chases her • he is bigger than she is • he pecks her  
he gets her all wet • he makes her spill her eggs • he is mean
3. YES or NO (circle one). The ranch dogs like to eat drippy eggs.

## Chapter 5

4. What is the name of Riley's horse? \_\_\_\_\_
5. How old is Andi's friend Riley?  
A. seven  
B. eight  
C. nine
6. What color is Coco's mane? \_\_\_\_\_
7. What color is Coco's coat (body)? \_\_\_\_\_
8. YES or NO (circle one): After three tries, Andi gets up on Midnight.

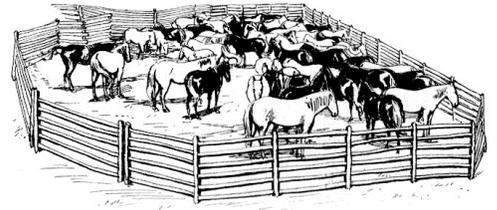
## Chapter 6

9. Andi does not like to trot. She wants to \_\_\_\_\_ very fast.
10. What does Riley grab onto? (circle one) Coco's mane • Coco's reins
11. What did Coco do that made Andi fall off?  
A. He galloped too fast.  
B. He bucked her off.  
C. He stopped.

## New Words for Chapters 4-6

Turn back to page 7 in *Pony Trouble* and find the three words below. Write what each word means.

1. corral \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



2. howdy \_\_\_\_\_

3. whinny \_\_\_\_\_



## New Words Riddles

Can you guess the word from the riddle clues? Use the word box for help.

4. I am buckled around a horse's head. I keep the bit in place and make sure the horse obeys. What am I? \_\_\_\_\_

5. This is what happened to Coco's mane when Andi didn't take care of him. It got all \_\_\_\_\_.

6. Coco does not like to gallop. He would rather walk or \_\_\_\_\_.

7. I am a toy. When you turn the handle music plays.

Then all of a sudden I jump out and surprise you.

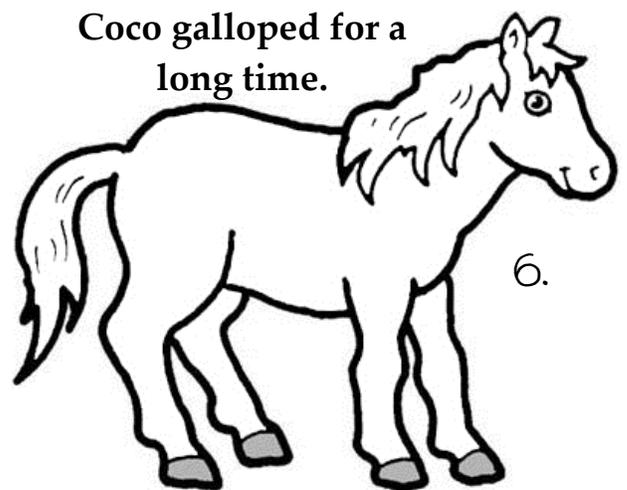
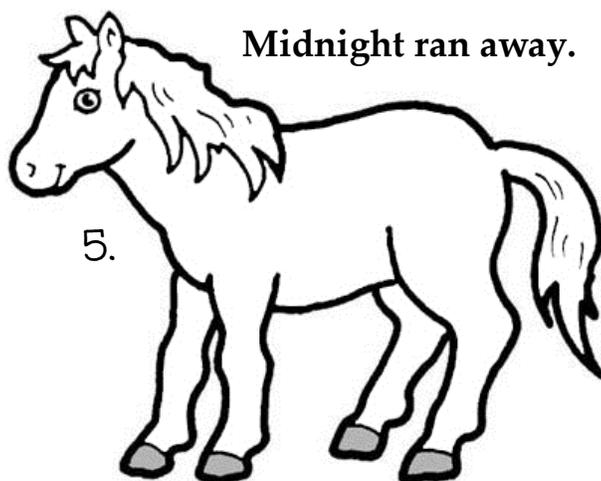
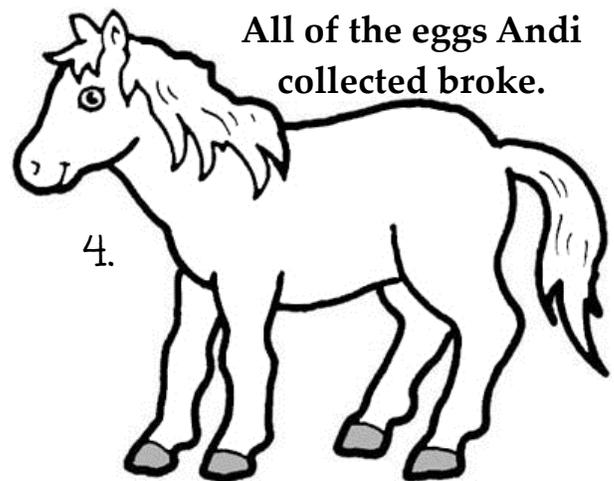
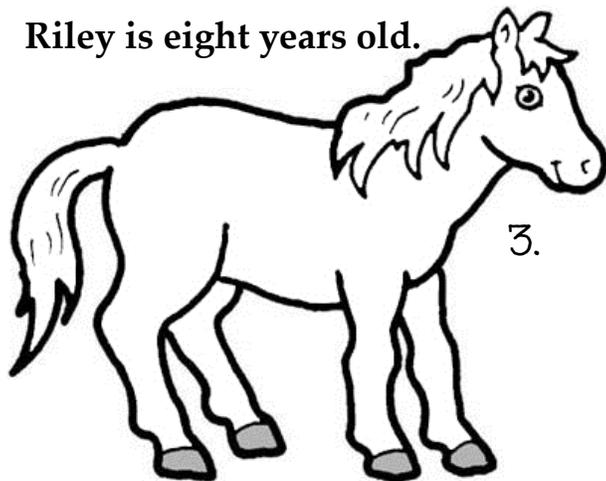
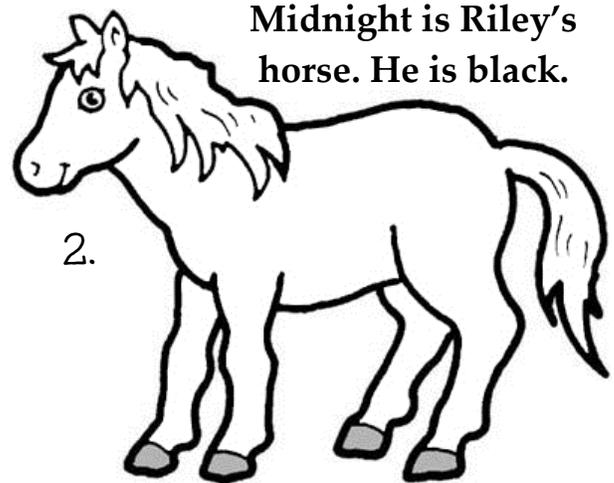
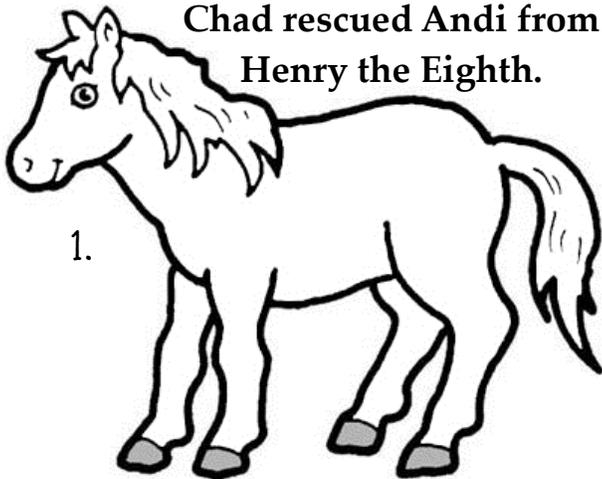
What am I? \_\_\_\_\_



Color me!

# Color the Ponies

Six ponies are trotting across this page. A sentence about *Pony Trouble* is written near each pony. If the sentence is true, color the pony. If the sentence is NOT true, draw a big X across the pony.





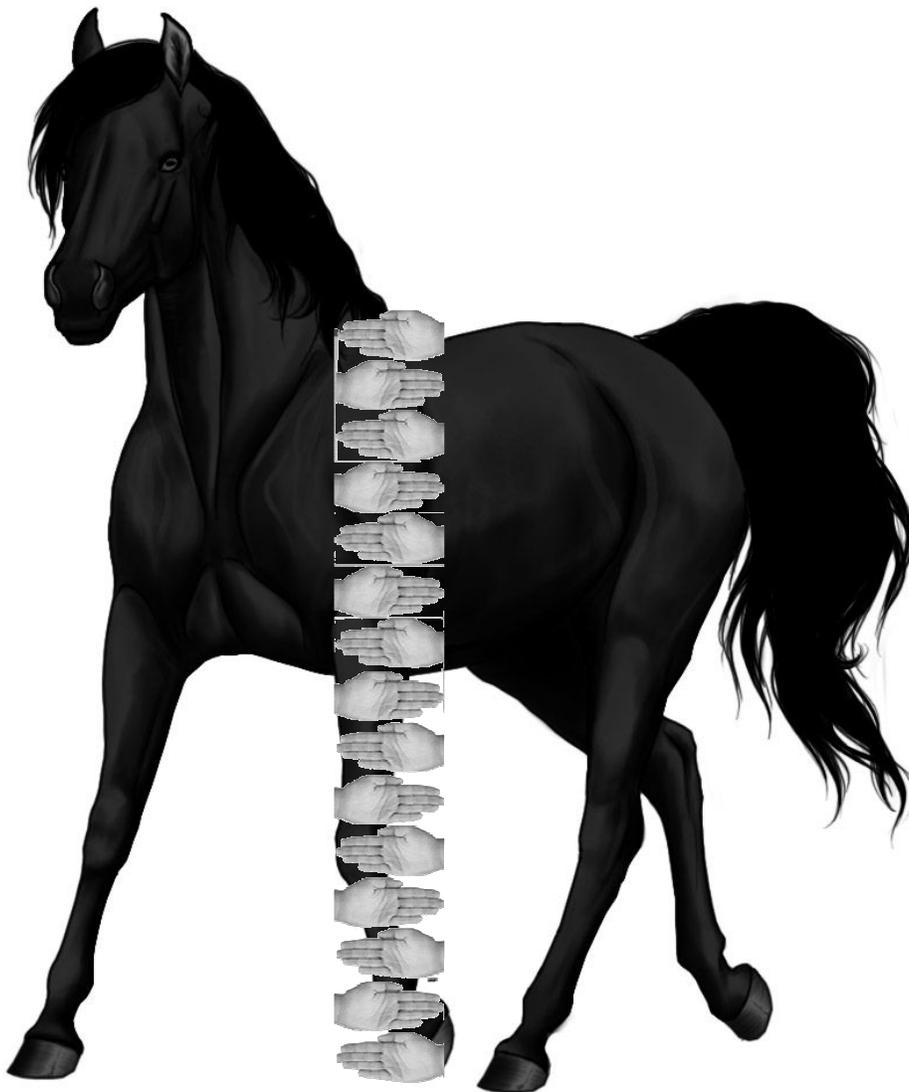
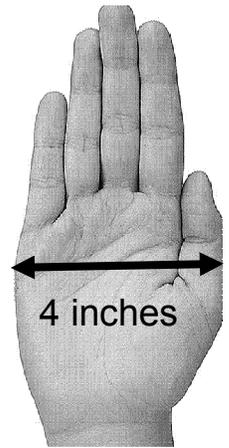
# Measuring Midnight

Midnight is much taller than Andi thought. She tried three times to climb up on his back, but she fell off every time. How tall is Midnight? Horses are measured in "hands." The width of one hand is about 4 inches. Do the math.

1. One hand = 4 inches wide. Two hands = \_\_\_\_\_ inches wide.
2. Three hands = \_\_\_\_\_ inches wide.
3. Four hands = \_\_\_\_\_ inches wide.

Now count the hands to find out how tall Midnight is.

4. Midnight is \_\_\_\_\_ hands high. He is a tall horse!



# Andi's Pony Trouble Chapters 7-10

Read the chapters and answer the questions:

## Chapter 7

1. Midnight runs away. What does Riley do to make Midnight come back?
  - A. He claps his hands.
  - B. He calls to Midnight.
  - C. He whistles.
2. Coco is eating grass. What does Andi do to make Coco come with them?
  - A. She claps her hands.
  - B. She calls to Coco.
  - C. She whistles.

## Chapter 8

3. Who eats Andi's sugar cookie? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What animal scares Andi when she is looking for Coco?
  - A. a deer
  - B. a bear
  - C. a wolf

## Chapter 9

5. Andi has two great ideas for how she will get back up on Midnight.  
Circle "yes" or "no" if her idea worked:
  - A. She climbed up on a big rock to reach Midnight's back: YES • NO
  - B. She climbed a tree and jumped onto Midnight's back: YES • NO
6. YES or NO (circle one). Andi learns that she can talk to God anytime.

## Chapter 10

7. Who wakes Andi up on her birthday? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What does Andi name her brand-new foal? \_\_\_\_\_

**Happy birthday, Andi!**

## New Words for Chapters 7-10

Circle the meaning of each underlined word in the sentences.

1. The little foal was pale gold. It had a short curly tail and a short curly mane.

*A foal is . . .*    A. a baby horse    B. a baby cow    C. a baby fox

2. This time Andi did not gallop. She made Midnight lope.

*Lope means . . .*    A. a fast walk    B. faster than a trot    C. faster than a gallop

3. "I should have let go of the reins," Riley said.

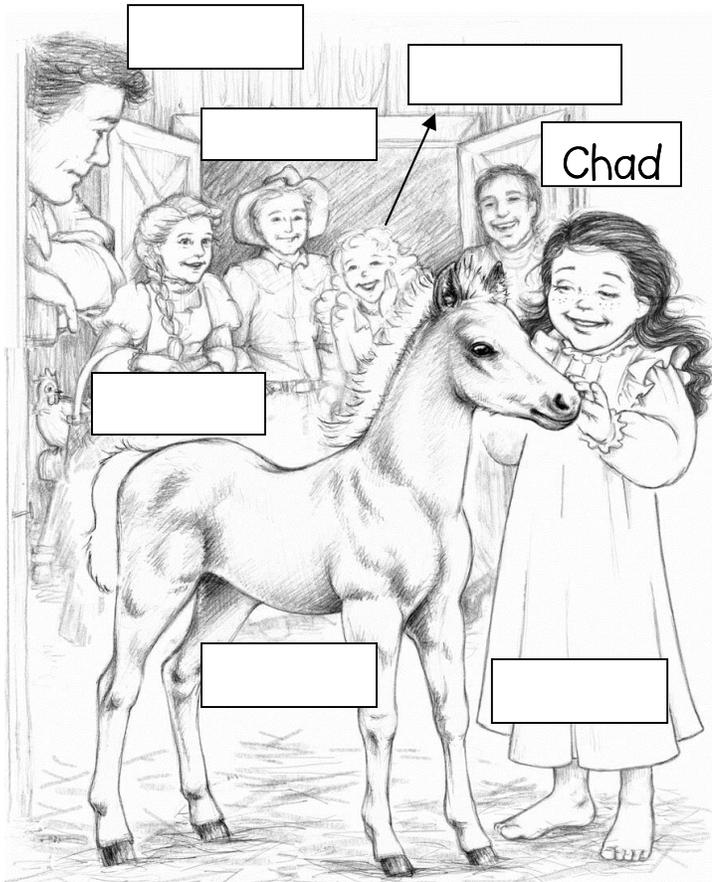
*Reins are used to . . .*    A. hold the saddle    B. catch a calf    C. guide a horse

4. Coco was  nibbling grass.

*Nibbling means . . .*    A. eating    B. stamping on    C. crushing

5. The tree branches were prickly.

*Prickly means . . .*    A. smooth    B. scratchy    C. poison



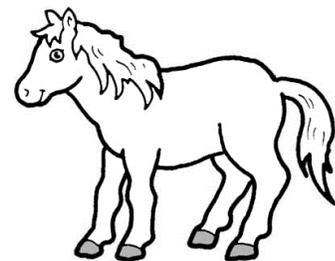
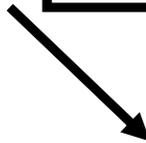
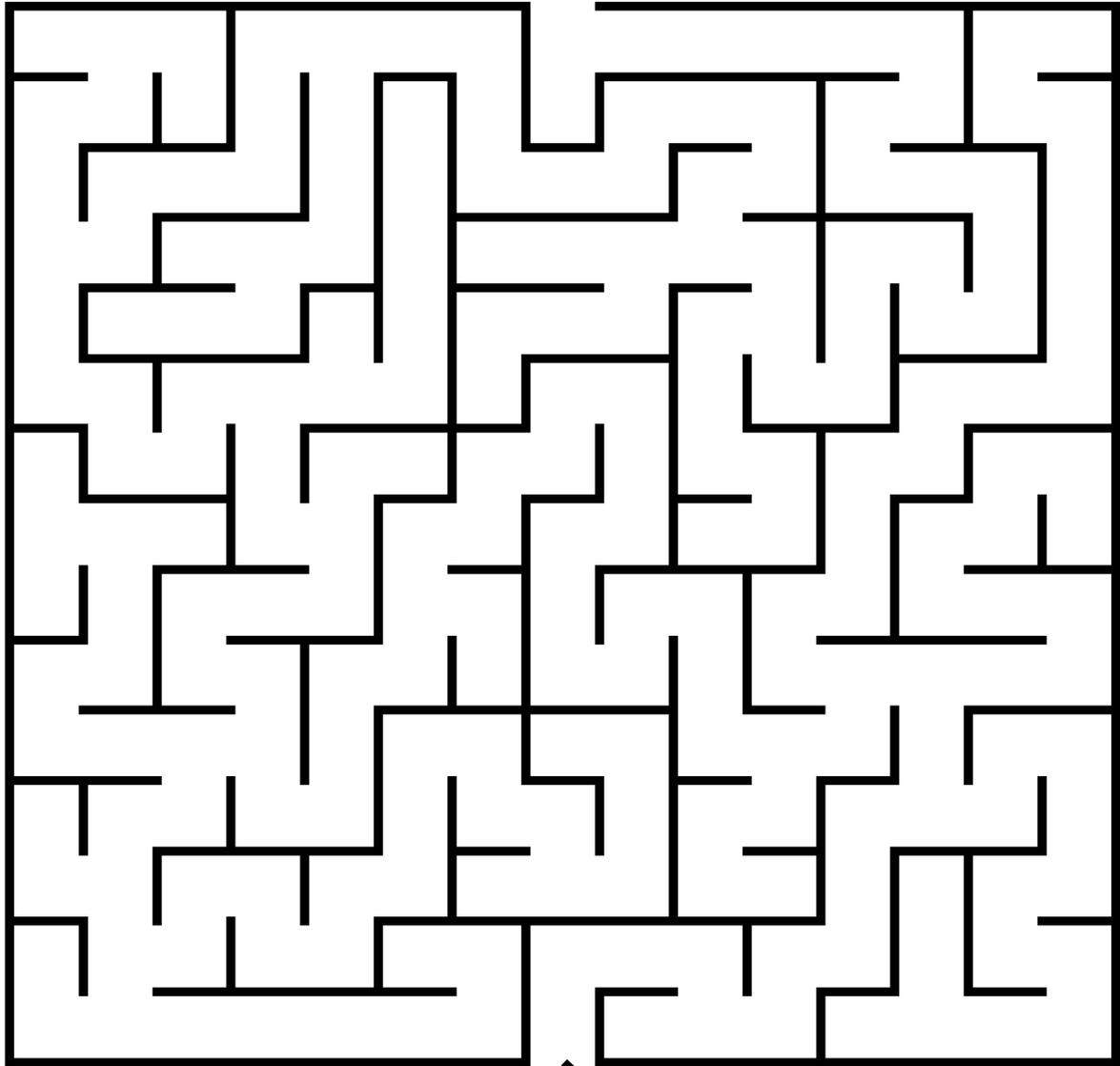
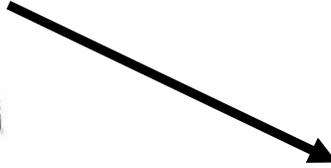
### Who Am I?

Do you know who is who in Andi's family? Write the names of the characters from *Pony Trouble* in the boxes. One of them has been done for you. When you are finished, you may color the picture if you want.

# Help Andi Find Coco . . . A Maze



Coco is missing! Follow the maze from Andi to Coco.  
Do not cross any black lines. Stay on the path.



## Skinned Alive! Funny Ways to Talk

Have you ever heard someone say it's "raining cats and dogs"?

Has your mom told you to "bite your tongue" or "hold your horses"? Sometimes people use strange words to say something they don't really mean. These are called idioms (id-ee-ums).

Two idioms in *Pony Trouble* are:

"You are acting too big for your britches."

"I'm going to skin you alive!"



What do these idioms *really* mean? Can you figure them out? Try it! Draw a line between each funny expression and what it really means.

1. It's raining cats and dogs.
  2. That was a piece of cake!
  3. You got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.
  4. Hold your horses!
  5. There's something fishy going on around here.
  6. I'm going to skin you alive!
  7. Bite your tongue.
  8. You are acting too big for your britches.
- You are grumpy this morning.
  - We are having a loud and noisy rainstorm.
  - Slow down! Not so fast!
  - That was so easy!
  - There's something strange going on around here.
  - You are acting like you know everything.
  - Stop talking.
  - You are in so much trouble!

# Andi's Sugar Cookies

Andi ate a sugar cookie while she sat on the fence with Midnight. Midnight liked the cookie as much as Andi did! Here is a recipe you can make with your parents or an older brother or sister. Cut out the recipe on the dotted line to save it for the next time you want to make cookies.

## Andi's Sugar Cookies

Turn on the oven to 375 degrees. Wash your hands.

### First you need:

2 sticks of soft butter (1 cup)  
1/2 cup powdered sugar  
1/2 cup white sugar

### Do this:

Beat the sugar and butter together with a hand mixer.

### Next:

1 egg  
1/2 teaspoon vanilla  
1/2 teaspoon almond extract

Add the egg, vanilla, and almond extract to the sugar and beat it well.

### Last:

2 cups white flour  
1/2 teaspoon baking soda  
1/2 teaspoon cream of tartar

Mix in the flour, soda, and cream of tartar until the dough is firm and like a big ball.

- ~ Roll the dough into small balls and put them on a cookie sheet.
- ~ Dip the bottom of a glass in sugar and press the cookie balls down a little bit.
- ~ Put the cookie sheet on the top rack in the oven.
- ~ Set the timer for 8 minutes. The cookies are done when they are light brown around the edges. Bake a minute longer if they are not done.
- ~ Use a potholder to remove the cookie sheet. Cool. Enjoy! Yum!



# Courage

Doing the right thing in the face of problems or danger, even if I am afraid.

Courage doesn't mean you have no fear. Courage is acting even when you are afraid.

For each letter in the word "courage," think of one thing you can do to practice having courage. (Ask an older brother or sister to help.)

Examples: "C" Climb a tree

"E" Eat a vegetable I don't like

C \_\_\_\_\_  
O \_\_\_\_\_  
U \_\_\_\_\_  
R \_\_\_\_\_  
A \_\_\_\_\_  
G \_\_\_\_\_  
E \_\_\_\_\_

Color the picture

## Courage

Be strong and let your heart take courage.

Psalm 31:24



# Answers: 1- Andi's Pony Trouble

## Page 7:

### Chapters 1-3

1. Andi
2. A
3. Six
4. Justin, Chad, Mitch, Melinda
5. Coco
6. B
7. NO
8. A
9. rooster

## Page 8: New Words for Chapters 1-3

- cattle**—cows  
**ranch**—a farm where people raise cattle and horses  
**coop**—a place where chickens are kept  
**roundup**—when cowboys gather up the cattle to sell them.  
**britches**—pants  
 1. scowled 2. pokey 3. hand-me-down  
 4. slumped 5. juggle

## Page 11: Egg math

1. 2 eggs
  2. 41 chickens
  3. 4 eggs
- 8 eggs all? 8

## Page 12:

### Chapters 4-6

1. Riley
2. he chases her; he pecks her; he makes her spill her eggs; he is mean
3. YES
4. Midnight
5. B
6. brown
7. brown
8. NO
9. gallop
10. Coco's reins
11. C

## Page 13: New Words for Chapters 4-6

1. corral—a fenced-in place to keep horses
2. howdy—hi
3. whinny—a sound a horse makes
4. bridle
5. tangled
6. trot
7. jack-in-the-box

## Page 14: Color the Ponies

1. X
2. Color
3. Color
4. X
5. Color
6. X

## Page 16: Measuring Midnight

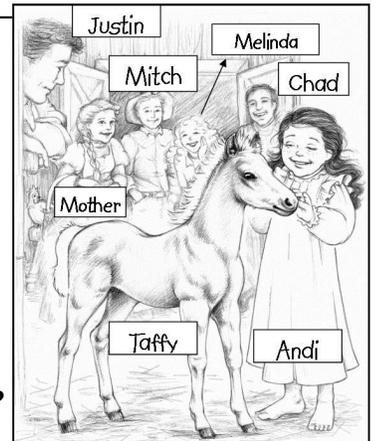
1. 8 inches
2. 12 inches
3. 16 inches
4. 15 hands high

## Page 17: Chapters 7-10

1. C
2. B
3. Midnight
4. A
5. A. NO B. NO
6. YES
7. Chad
8. Taffy

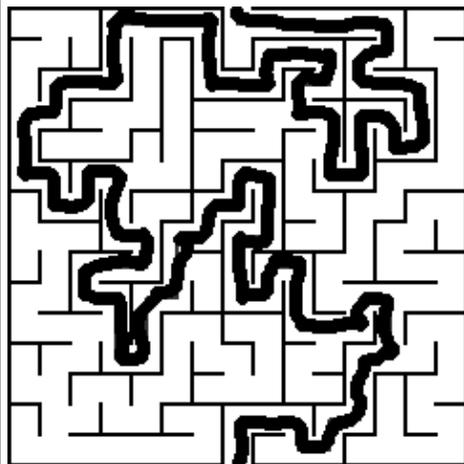
## Page 18: New Words Chapters 7-10

1. A
2. B
3. C
4. A
5. B



WHO AM I?

## Page 19: Maze



## Page 20 Funny Ways to Talk

1. **It's raining cats and dogs.**—We are having a loud and noisy rainstorm.
2. **That was a piece of cake!**—That was so easy!
3. **You got up on the wrong side of the bed this morning.**— You are grumpy this morning.
4. **Hold your horses!**—Slow down! Not so fast!
5. **There's something fishy going on.**—There's something strange going on around here.
6. **I'm going to skin you alive!**—You are in so much trouble!
7. **Bite your tongue.**—Stop talking.
8. **You are acting too big for your britches.**— You are acting like you know everything.