Horses have always been important to American culture. In early colonial times, people used horses to help with farming and travel. They would use bridles to help control the horses. Wild horses used to run free throughout the United States, but as more people came to the country, they started to become tame.

A wild horse is also called a mustang. Today, mustangs only live in the western states. Mustangs can find sanctuary in lands that are protected by the federal government. It is difficult to keep this land because people want to develop it into homes and malls.

Habitat is very important to wild horses. It is an ongoing battle to protect them. You are able to see these beautiful creatures if you visit a sanctuary in the West.

**Mabel’s Fable**

This is a fable about a girl named Mabel. One day, she was out in the forest and saw a wild horse eating grass. She slowly approached the horse so it wouldn’t be afraid. The horse’s ears perked up as Mabel got closer.

“I won’t hurt you,” whispered Mabel. The horse didn’t move, so Mabel crawled closer and kept talking to the horse. Soon she was level with his eyes. The horse snorted and Mabel giggled. “I am going to call you Snort!” she said.

Mabel was able to coax Snort to follow her home. She gave Snort a flannel blanket so he wouldn’t get cold. She gave him hay and lots of water. Soon, all the people in town had heard the tale about how Mabel tamed the wild horse.

**Wild Horses**

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**Activity** Make a list of ways we use horses today.