

The Wild Horses of the Outer Banks of North Carolina

(September 2019)

As Hurricane Dorian came up the East Coast of the United States, many thought about the welfare of the wild horses that live on the Outer Banks of North Carolina: what would happen to them? After all, many people and animals had become victims of the hurricane. The truth is these majestic Spanish mustangs have never left when bad weather was forecasted. To ride out storms, they do something they have done for decades: they stand in a clump, backsides to the wind!

The wild horses of the Outer Banks know what they are doing when it comes to hurricanes because they have been doing it for so long. When instinct kicks in, they look for hillsides in the landscape and stand under the oak trees of the island. This is a safe spot from which to ride things out.

The wild horses of the Outer Banks are relatives of the mustangs brought over by Spanish explorers long ago. Today, the herd is made up of a number of harems. Each harem consists of a male and a bunch of mares. Each harem keeps to itself, but during a hurricane, the different harems come together. There is strength in numbers, as the old saying goes.

The Corolla Wild Horse Fund is an organization that cares for the Outer Banks herd. It is where the sick wild horses go. The Fund thinks the wild horses can make it through anything just fine. In fact, they are better able to handle big storms than humans. However, before the wind and rain made landfall, the Fund got its farm ready. It was quick to fill the troughs with extra food, water, and lots of hay. Each horse had an ID tag woven into its mane. The farm manager chose to stay at the farm despite the risks.

The wild horses of the Outer Banks have been around for 500 years, so they are not new to storms.

And as far as anyone can recall, they have always made it through just fine.

Teacher Resources

Please note: this non-controlled readable text passage features a ***description text structure***. As such, it is written to be ***at least 80% decodable at Substep 4.2***. A specific decodability score is listed below.

- This text passage is 80.06% decodable at Substep 4.2

Text Easability Scores

If you would like to measure the text easability scores of this passage, please follow the directions below.

1. Visit the Coh-Metrix Text Easability Assessor website at <http://tea.cohmetrix.com/>. If you do not already have a login and password, create one. It is free and easy to sign up for access to the website.
2. Once you have created an account and sign in, you will be taken to a page with an empty, white text box. Copy and paste the text from this passage into the empty, white text box. Make sure you are only copying and pasting the body of the passage. Do not include the title, date, or any of the resources present in the passage.
3. When you have pasted the passage into the text box, click on the red button beneath the text box that says "Analyze." There will be a short delay and after a few seconds, you will see a bar graph appear to the right of the screen.
4. The bar graph will give you the percentages for several text characteristics including: narrativity, syntactic simplicity, word concreteness, referential cohesion, and deep cohesion.
5. Below the bar graph, the Flesch Kincaid Grade Level is also included for your benefit.
6. Lastly, a paragraph is provided that explains the meaning of the measurements of the text characteristics for your particular passage.
7. Once you have completed measuring your passage, you can click on the "Clear" button below the text box and measure another passage, if you wish.

This text passage is archived under *Animals*.