

THE GLOBAL INFLUENCE OF THE Arabian Horse

PREHISTORY OF THE HORSE — Before the dawn of recorded history, four sub-species of horse roamed the earth. Only one of these exists in its pure form today — the Arabian horse. The breed was clearly portrayed on the walls of limestone caves, along with other animals, between 25,000 and 40,000 years ago. The first written documentation, more than 4,000 years ago, verifies that the Arabian horse is the same today as it was then.

Arabian horses are a classic breed. In fact, they are one of the first pure breeds to exist and amazingly are still bred today. Because of their ancient heritage, Arabians became the foundation of many other modern horse breeds. In the 20th century Registries formed that tracked and documented the pedigrees of horses being born. Arabian horses often appeared in these pedigrees and in breeds that you may not expect!

Join us and explore the history of the Arabian horse and find out more about their diversity!



THE FOUNDATION HORSE

The exact beginning of the Arabian breed is not fully known, but some things are certain. Arabian horses trace back to the desert regions of the Arabian Peninsula. These desert climates are extreme, but the Bedouin tribes who lived there knew how to adapt and one thing they could not live without was the Arabian horse. Horses were carefully bred, prized possessions with very important jobs. So, the Bedouins worked hard to keep the bloodlines pure and strong.



COMING TO THE NEW WORLD

In 1725, Nathan Harrison imported the first Arabian horse to Virginia who sired over 300 foals out of local mares. Arabian horses continue to be imported to the United States throughout the Civil War.

Something to ponder...

Some of the more familiar modern breeds of horse that the Arabian has influenced are the Quarter Horse, Pony of the Americas, Appaloosa, Saddlebred, Standardbred, Morgan, Tennessee Walking Horse, Hackney Pony, Trakhener, and even the draft horse breed, the Percheron!



EXPANSION INTO EUROPE

1st CENTURY A.D.

As the world changed and the Romans expanded their empire, the Arabian horse traveled from the Arabian Peninsula, across Western Europe and into Great Britain, where they were crossed with Celtic ponies and other breeds. This created breeds like Welsh Mountain Ponies.



The modern Thoroughbred horse traces back to three Arabian foundation stallions imported to England at the turn of the 18th century — the **Darley Arabian**, the **Godolphin Arabian** and the **Byerly Turk**. They were bred to native mares, which resulted in a horse that could carry weight with sustained speed over extended distances.

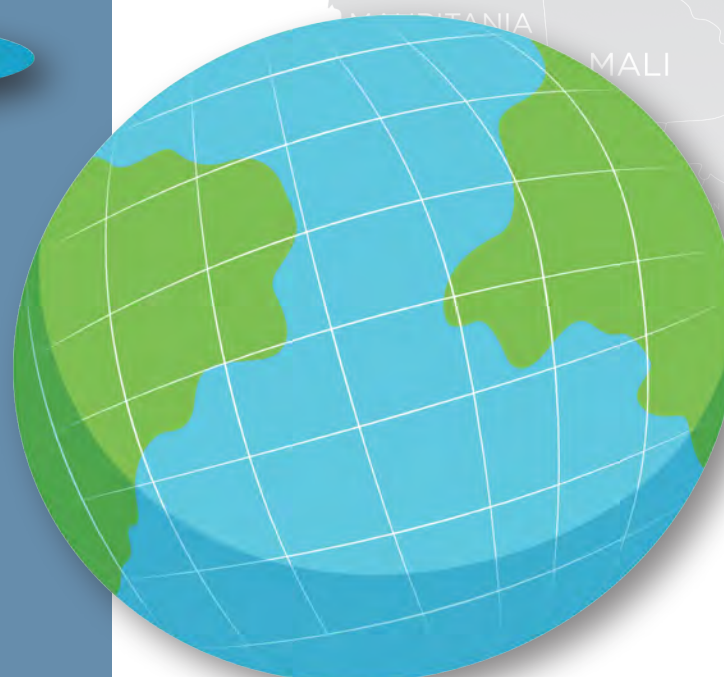
16TH - 18TH CENTURY A.D.

As time went on the need for a heavy war horse declined, and the art of Classical Dressage was rediscovered. It became a cultural part of the elite and wealthy throughout Europe. Heads of state and affluent gentlemen began to import Arabians. However, this time they were not only bred for their athletic ability but also for their light and elegant nature. The Arabian bloodline spread again for sport and pleasure horses and crossed with native breeds to create the Thoroughbred and Lipizzan.



19TH - 20TH CENTURY A.D.

The Arabian breed continued to diversify in the 19th and 20th centuries. Arabians were bred for endurance, strength, and fortitude creating Sport Breeds like the Trakhener.



COAT COLORS OF THE *Arabian Horse*

To learn more visit ArabianHorses.org/CoatPatterns
PUREBRED ARABIANS

BLACK



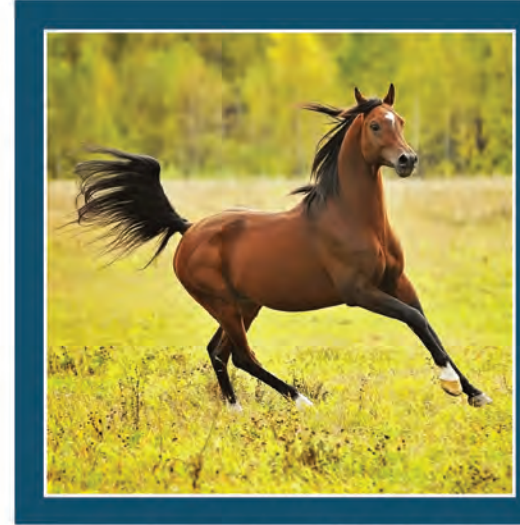
Often brown at birth or "mousey" colored, the foal darkens with age, but can look brown if sun-faded.
Shown: Thee Onyx, owned by Sapphire Farms

GREY



Foals who are grey are born dark, often having white hair around the eyes, and lighten as they age.
Greys range from dark grey, to dappled, to white.

BAY



Characterized with a brown coat that ranges from a deep reddish-brown to copper with black mane and tail, and black points on the legs, face and ears.

CHESTNUT



The Chestnut coat color can range from a light copper to a deep reddish-brown. The mane and tail are often the same color as the coat, but can also be flaxen or "blonde."

HALF OR PART-BRED ARABIANS

BUCKSKIN



Coat color can range from a light "buttermilk" to a deep golden color. The mane and tail are black with black points on the legs and ears. Some buckskins also feature zebra striping on the legs.

PALOMINO



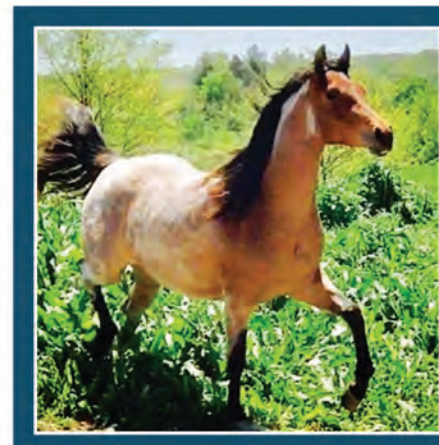
Coat color can range from a light "buttermilk" to a deep golden color. The mane and tail are often white.

PINTO



Coat color can be a combination of chestnut, palomino, dun or buckskin and large white patches over the body or a "tri-color"—a bay (black mane and tail) with large white areas.

ROAN



This pattern is characterized by white "flecking" throughout the coat. The flecking can range from minimal to maximum spread throughout the horse's coat.
Shown: Good Wine Bars owned by Megan Cook

APPALOOSA



The coat pattern has a wide range, from a "snowflake" blanket covering just the croup and hindquarters to a leopard pattern covering the entire body. Some horses with this coat pattern can "roan-out" with age.

DUN



The coat pattern often appears "smoky" or diluted and features a dark dorsal stripe and dark mane and tail, and sometimes zebra striping on the legs.