

# GRAND DESIGNS

## ANSWERS

Do you have what it takes to build the perfect yard? Choose the correct options to find out!



**1** First things first, you need to rebuild the barn where the ponies' stables will be. Which material do you use for the walls?

- A) Plastic
- B) Metal
- C) Brick or timber

**Answer: C**

Brick or timber are good choices for stables. Brick is a solid material that's strong and long-lasting, while timber provides natural insulation and can also be cost-effective. Either one would make a better choice than plastic, which isn't so durable, or metal, which is poorly insulated, making it very cold in winter and hot in summer, as well as noisy in windy or rainy weather.

**2** What size will you make each stable?

- A) 8x8ft
- B) 10x10ft
- C) 12x12ft

**Answer: C**

Stables should be no smaller than 12x12 for ponies and 12x14 for larger horses, so they have enough space to lie down safely and move around comfortably.

**3** Which material would make the best flooring?

- A) Sand
- B) Sloped concrete and rubber matting
- C) Earth/dirt

**Answer: B**

Sloped concrete helps to drain urine away from your horse's bed and is easy to clean, while adding mats on top helps with grip and cushioning. Sand or earth can quickly become muddy and wear away, while sand is also dangerous for ponies if ingested.

**4** Which addition to the barn would be the most important to you?

- A) Windows to help with ventilation
- B) An automatic water system so people don't have to carry buckets around
- C) A solarium to dry ponies off after bath time

**Answer: A**

Out of the options listed, ventilation is the most important addition because it helps keep your pony's airways healthy. An automatic water system and solarium would be lovely to have, but neither are essential to your pony's health and wellbeing.

**5** The fields need new fencing. What type do you install?

- A) Barbed wire
- B) Post and rail
- C) The hedge will do

**Answer: B**

Post and rail is a safe, durable form of fencing. Barbed wire is dangerous because your pony could easily catch himself on it and get injured. Hedges are a brilliant addition to a fence line, but it can be easy for holes to form and therefore ponies to escape, so a secondary level of fencing is important.

**6** What type of water supply will you put in the paddocks?

- A) There's a stream to drink from
- B) They can drink from puddles
- C) An automatic trough

**Answer: C**

Giving your pony constant access to clean water in his field is essential for his health. An automatic trough is the best option because it means he'll never run out of water and it's less labour-intensive than carrying buckets back and forth. However, you'll still need to check it daily, especially when pipes might freeze in the winter, and clean it out regularly, too. Natural water sources can become contaminated, and the banks slippery and dangerous, so it's usually best to fence them off.

**7** The yard comes with 10 acres of turnout. How many ponies could you comfortably accommodate?

- A) Six
- B) Two
- C) 20

**Answer: A**

A yard with 10 acres of turnout could comfortably accommodate approximately six ponies. To calculate the space you need, allow an acre and a half of space for one pony, and then an additional acre for each subsequent pony. It's also useful to be able to rotate fields to allow one to rest so the land doesn't become horse sick.

**8** You need to do some work to get the pasture up to scratch! What will you do?

- A) Top the field and rent it out to a farmer so his animals graze it down for the ponies
- B) Weed, harrow and fertilise according to soil test results, then re-seed sparse areas and roll
- C) Fertilise and re-seed to help the grass grow and spray it to kill any weeds

**Answer: B**

The best order for maintaining a paddock is to weed, harrow, fertilise, re-seed and roll to allow for correct regrowth. Allowing sheep to graze it down would make poor pasture even poorer and untargeted fertilising and re-seeding could make the grazing too rich for ponies.

**9** Where will you store hay and bedding?

- A) In the barn with the ponies
- B) Outside under a tarpaulin
- C) In a separate barn

**Answer: C**

It's important to store your hay away from your ponies. Not only is it bad for their airways because it harbours dust, but it's also a major fire hazard. Keeping it under a solid structure will mean it stays dry and help prevent wastage.

**10** You need to design an arena! What type of surface do you choose?

- A) Bark or woodchip
- B) Rubber and silica sand
- C) Regular sand

**Answer: B**

There are many types of arena surface on the market, but choosing one such as rubber and silica sand will provide the best support for your pony's legs, but it also drains well and is easy to maintain.