

# **The Role of Horses in America's History**

**By: Jessica Poole**

Since the migration of the conquistadors to the Spanish Americas, wild horses have had their many uses in America's history! One importance of the horse has been their contribution to wars. After their domestication, horses were used for cavalry in many wars including the French and Indian War, Revolutionary War, and the Civil War. If it was not for their service in these wars, America would have a different personality today. Another role of the horse in America's history is in the time of the Industrial Revolution. Horses were used for travel, before the automobile was invented. They were harnessed to stagecoaches, buses, and carriages to carry people around. They were also put to aid in building canals since that was an important type of transportation. This led them to the application of agriculture. When big machines, such as the John Deere tractor had not come around yet, the horse would plow fields and haul goods, which is exactly what the farmer needed. Although, machines and automobiles eventually replaced the work of the horse, they are still used for sports and pleasure riding. Some sports that horses are exercised in would include horseracing, fox hunting, American polo, and the rodeo. Most of these sports today are for people's entertainment. In the two hundred years that America has been a country, horses have helped shape the way it works today. They played a big part in American wars, made the Industrial Revolution possible, allowed farmers to speed up their agriculture process, and are here today for people's enjoyment. Wild horses belong to a country in which they have helped inspire a country to grow!