

## Horses with Pull

Loggers have a tough job. Trees are big and heavy. They have to be hauled from hilly areas in the mountains. Trucks carry the trees to a mill to be processed. But these trucks can't drive on the winding dirt roads in the mountains. How do loggers get the trees out of the forest and onto trucks?

Many loggers use heavy machines to move and load logs. Logging machines are fast and very powerful. They have big engines and giant tires. But because they are so big, they can damage the forest. Big engines make a lot of noise and pollute the air. The large tires need wide roads to get in and out of the forest area and they can also trample delicate plants.

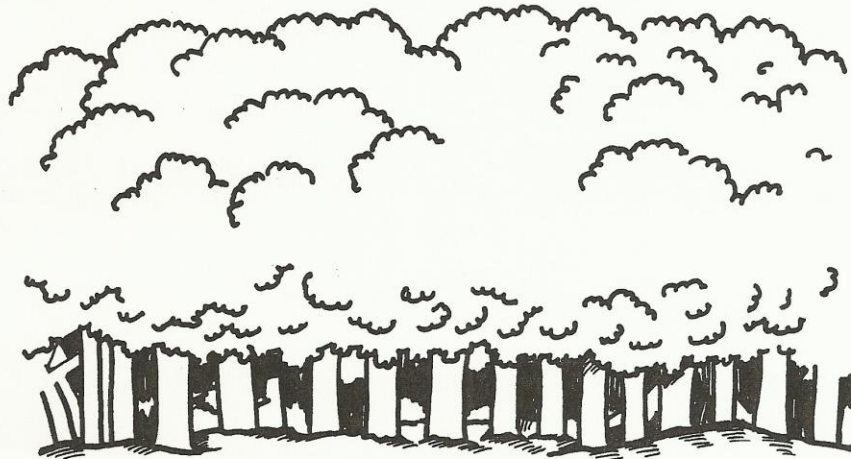
To solve this problem, some loggers have started using horses to move trees out of the woods. Horses don't have any of the problems big trucks and machines do. Horses are quiet. They also don't do as much damage to small plants or pollute the air.

So how do loggers use their horses to help them in the woods? First, the loggers cut the trees down. This is called felling. Then, the branches are cut off the tree and the trunk is chopped into short lengths. When the logs are ready, the horses are moved into position.

The logs are attached to the horses' harnesses with chains. When the horses hear the right command, they start pulling. Two horses can pull up to 1,500 pounds. This is about the same as the weight of a small car. The horses can pull the logs up to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of a mile if necessary.

Loggers usually bring four horses to a job. That way, two horses can rest while the other two work.

Using horses for logging may seem old fashioned. Machines can do the job much more quickly and easily, but horses are better for the plants and animals in the forest. For this reason, many loggers have returned to this older way to work.



## Horses with Pull *(cont.)*

### Reading Comprehension Questions

After reading the story, answer the questions. Circle the correct answer.

1. Why have some loggers started to use horses?
  - a. Logging machines cost too much.
  - b. Horses are faster than logging machines.
  - c. Horses can pull more weight than trucks.
  - d. Horses are easier on the forest.
2. What is another good name for this passage?
  - a. "Heavy Trees."
  - b. "Horses are Strong."
  - c. "Horses Replace Machines."
  - d. "Horses Need a Break."
3. Which of the following can two horses working together haul?
  - a. A small car.
  - b. A locomotive.
  - c. A truck.
  - d. A big house.
4. The writer seems to feel that—
  - a. using horses is more fun than using machines.
  - b. using a machine is better when the logs are heavier than usual.
  - c. using horses instead of machines is a good idea.
  - d. getting the job done quickly is more important than anything else.
5. A good way to decide the correct answer for question 4 is to—
  - a. think about the horses you have seen in your life.
  - b. notice what the writer says in the last paragraph.
  - c. read several books on logging.
  - d. decide what your own opinion is about logging machines and horses.