

# HORSES



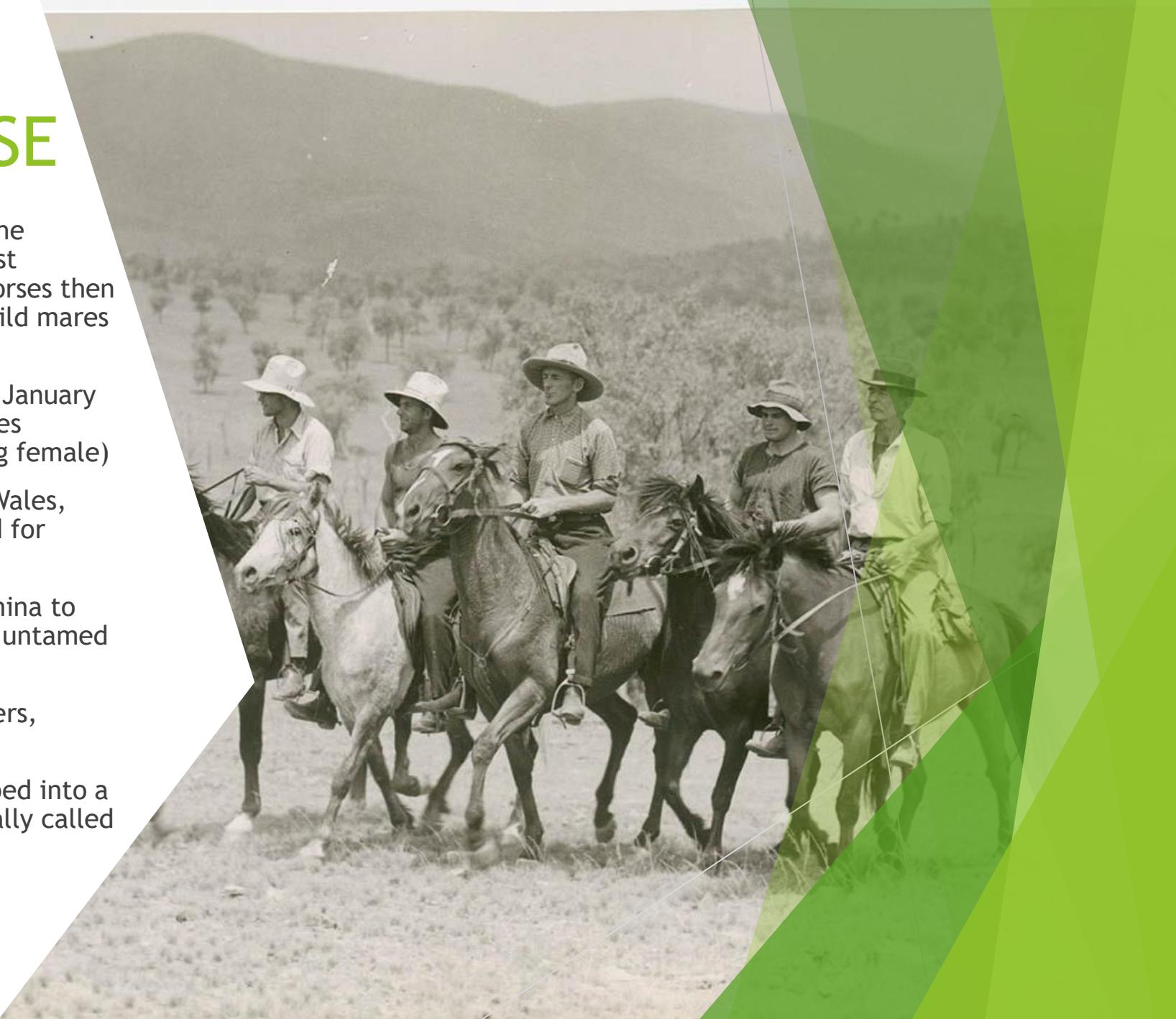
A photograph of two horses in a rural setting. In the foreground, a white horse with a long, flowing mane is leaning its head against a weathered wooden fence. Behind it, a reddish-brown horse with a white blaze on its forehead stands in a lush green field under a cloudy sky.

# AUSTRALIAN ICON

- ▶ Australians hold a special place in their hearts for the Horse - This is mirrored in the fact that we boast the second highest number of horses per capita worldwide. Horses were instrumental in exploring, pioneering and farming early Australia.
- ▶ They provided reliable transport, quickly became ingrained in sporting culture, and went to war alongside our soldiers.
- ▶ Horses have had a huge impact since their arrival with the first fleet just 232 years ago.

# ORIGIN OF THE HORSE

- ▶ Horses were domesticated 6,000 years ago on the grasslands of Ukraine, southwest Russia and west Kazakhstan, a genetic study shows. Domestic horses then spread across Europe and Asia, breeding with wild mares along the way.
- ▶ Horses came to Australia with the First Fleet in January 1788. They included a stallion (male), four mares (females), a colt (young male) and a filly (young female)
- ▶ Later ships brought more horses to New South Wales, helping to meet the colony's increasing demand for saddle and working breeds.
- ▶ Horses for the Colony needed strength and stamina to survive the long sea journey and to work in the untamed environment of their new home.
- ▶ Sturdy, saddle horses were required by explorers, stockmen, settlers, bushrangers and troopers.
- ▶ Despite the mixed origins, these horses developed into a strong and handsome breed, which was eventually called the Waler after the Colony of New South Wales.



# BRUMBIES

- ▶ According to tradition, when James Brumby a soldier and pastoralist was transferred from Sydney to Van Diemen's Land in 1801, he was forced to release several horses into the bush.
- ▶ Known as Brumby's horses and later as 'brumbies', the word has come to mean wild horses.
- ▶ Mobs of brumbies that most famously roam the Australian Alps today are descended from lost, abandoned or escaped horses that in some cases belonged to early European settlers like Brumby.



# COBB & CO STAGECOACH



- ▶ Australia's legendary stagecoach company, Cobb & Co, commenced services in 1854 as people required more regular transportation to and from the gold fields.
- ▶ Routes were divided into sections between 10 to 30 miles so horses could travel quickly and then be swapped for a fresh team.
- ▶ Cobb & Co coaches carried passengers and mail for 70 years
- ▶ There is a museum located in Toowoomba dedicated to sharing and preserving the history of the Australian stagecoach.

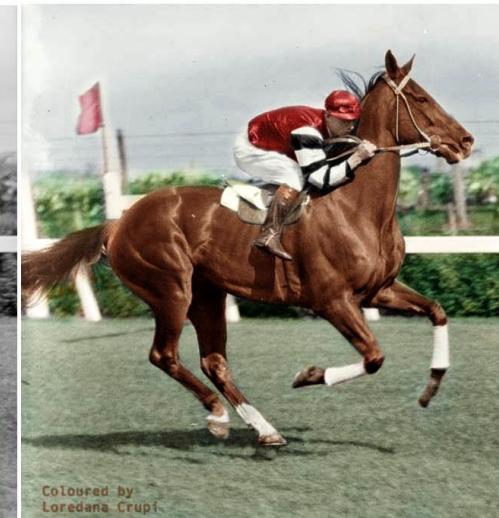
# WAR HORSE

- ▶ Different breeds were mixed to come up with a strong, versatile horse suited to Australian conditions. The result was the New South Waler, a horse capable of fulfilling many needs. In 1844 an important trade developed exporting Walers to India where the horses' characteristics also fulfilled the needs of the British Army.
- ▶ Australian Light Horse were mounted troops with characteristics of both cavalry and mounted infantry.
- ▶ In the Palestine Campaign of 1917, 800 light horsemen of the 4th and 12th Regiments rode Walers as they charged the Turkish trenches at Beersheba, winning an important strategic victory of World War One.
- ▶ Regarded as the finest cavalry horse in the world, the Waler is recognised as part of the base stock of the admired Australian Stock Horse.



# HORSE RACING

- ▶ Australia's first official horse race took place at Sydney's Hyde Park in October 1810.
- ▶ Our most famous horse race, the Melbourne Cup got its start on 7 November 1861.
- ▶ A crowd of 4,000 gathered at Flemington to witness John Cutts ride Archer to victory. They went on to win for a second time a year later.
- ▶ The race has become deeply ingrained into the national spirit of Australia.
- ▶ It attracts more than 100,000 live spectators.
- ▶ Millions more stop whatever they are doing to listen to the race call or watch it on TV. Have you heard the saying "The race that stops the nation"?
- ▶ Australia's most famous racehorse Phar Lap wowed Australian race crowds during the Great Depression of the 1930s - winning all four days of the 1930 Flemington Spring Carnival including the Melbourne Cup.
- ▶ Suffering an untimely death in 1932, Phar Lap remains an Australian sporting icon and a national hero.



# AUSTRALIAN STOCK HORSE



- ▶ The Australian Stock Horse and the Waler come from similar backgrounds, although today they are separate breeds.
- ▶ The Station horse that was an ancestor of both breeds was used by the Australian Army in the First World War and was renowned for its hardiness and endurance.
- ▶ The modern Australian Stock Horse is smaller than its ancestors. The horses used in war were bred to be larger as they had to carry a rider as well as the extra weight of weapons and a full pack.
- ▶ Some of the heaviest animals were used to pull water carts and carriages. Strength and endurance remain with the Australian Stock Horse of today.
- ▶ Formal recognition of Australian Stock Horses as a distinct breed began in June 1971, when over 100 camp drafters and horse breeders met in Tamworth NSW, to form the Australian Stock Horse Society.
- ▶ At the Opening Ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics the Australian Stock Horse took centre stage, billions of TV viewers learned the remarkable history of this living Icon.
- ▶ As of March 2008, the Australian Outback Spectacular has used Australian Stock Horses in its show on the Gold Coast QLD.
- ▶ While horses are now often being replaced in the flatter outback and Top End regions by motorcycles and helicopters, they are still necessary today for mustering and roundups in rugged mountain terrain.



# COMMON BREEDS

Horses have long played an important part of human history. Because of this long history, the breeding of horses over centuries has been well documented, and although there are hundreds of different breeds, they are classed into four general types:

- ▶ Hot bloods (e.g. Arab and Thoroughbred)
- ▶ Warm bloods (carriage and sport horses)
- ▶ Cold bloods (draft horses such as Clydesdales)
- ▶ Ponies (e.g. Shetland and Welsh Mountain Pony)
- ▶ These categories refer to the temperament and build of the horse rather than the actual temperature of the horse's blood.
- ▶ Hot-blooded horses, such as Arabians and Thoroughbreds tend to be cleverer and possess great speed.
- ▶ Coldblooded horses tend to be quieter and are generally bigger built in stature and so not able to achieve the same speed.
- ▶ Some of the common breeds found in Australia are the Thoroughbred, The Arabian, The Standardbred, The Clydesdale and the Shetland Pony.

# THE THOROUBRED

The very glamorous of horse breeds, the Thoroughbred is most commonly used as a racehorse.

With long legs, powerful hindquarters and strong, sloping shoulders, they are strong and fast.

While known for their stamina, courage and spirited nature, these valuable horses need expert handling and training even if they are retired from the track.



# THE ARABIAN



One of the most recognisable horses because of their distinctive head and tail, the Arabian is an elegant horse usually used for riding, showing and equestrian events.

They are known for their stamina, gentleness, intelligence and endurance.



# THE STANDBRED

This breed is best known for its use in harness racing. They generally have a calmer temperament compared to Thoroughbreds and have a sturdy, athletic build.

They are a versatile breed, that once retired, can be used as pleasure horses in riding, dressage or endurance work.



# THE CLYDSDALE



The Clydesdale is a sturdy, stable intelligent horse.

Is a beautiful breed and the most recognisable of all the workhorses.

Bred to pull wagons, carts and other heavy loads, they are very strong.

They have a pleasant nature and are calm to work with.

# THE SHETLAND PONY

This charming equine breed is recognisable because of their tiny stature but are strong for their size.

Frequently used for riding for children and can also be harnessed to small wagons.

They are intelligent horses and respond well to good handling.





## HEALTH CARE, PESTS & DISEASES

- ▶ Animal health, welfare and biosecurity are all important stages of the livestock production chain. If managed poorly each can have adverse impacts on productivity.
- ▶ Biosecurity programs for farming industries are designed to prevent the spread of infectious disease and contain disease outbreaks when they occur.
- ▶ Parasites and disease impact on all animals, including Alpacas. Animals affected by disease may not always show obvious clinical signs.
- ▶ Biosecurity is important at the national, regional and property level.
- ▶ Producers are governed by Australian Animal Welfare Standards and Guidelines. State and territory governments are responsible for animal welfare laws and their enforcement. These are enforced through animal welfare or prevention of cruelty to animals' legislation.



## RISKS & CHALLENGES

- ▶ Like any primary industry there are risks associated with raising horses. Some will be outside of a owner's control however experienced horse people are usually able to manage these risks.
- ▶ Risks include disease and pests, it is extremely important that we maintain Australia's freedom from major cattle diseases through strict quarantine laws and procedures.
- ▶ Here in Australian weather events such as drought, fires and flooding take a huge toll on our farming communities. They really need our support.



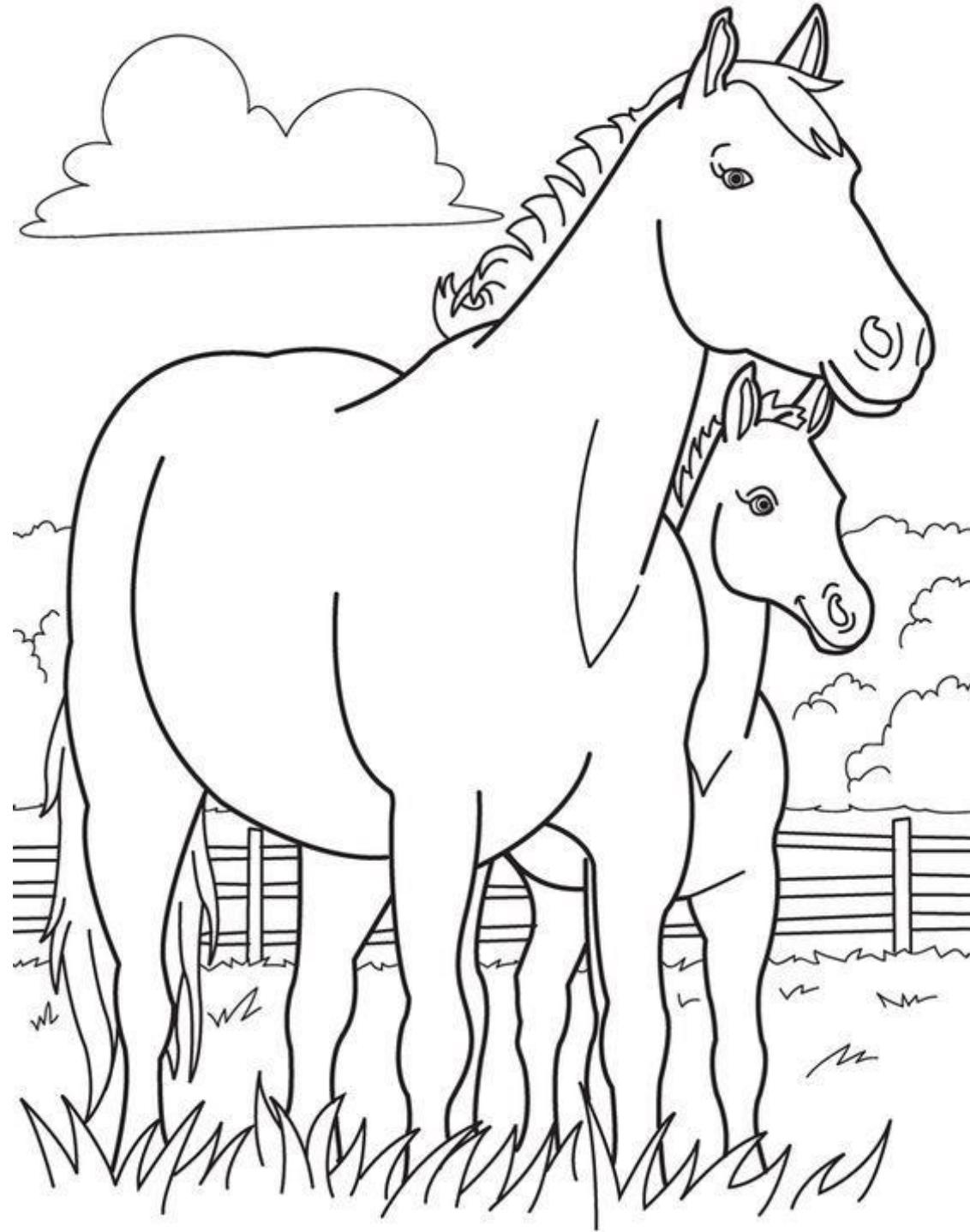
# POP QUIZ

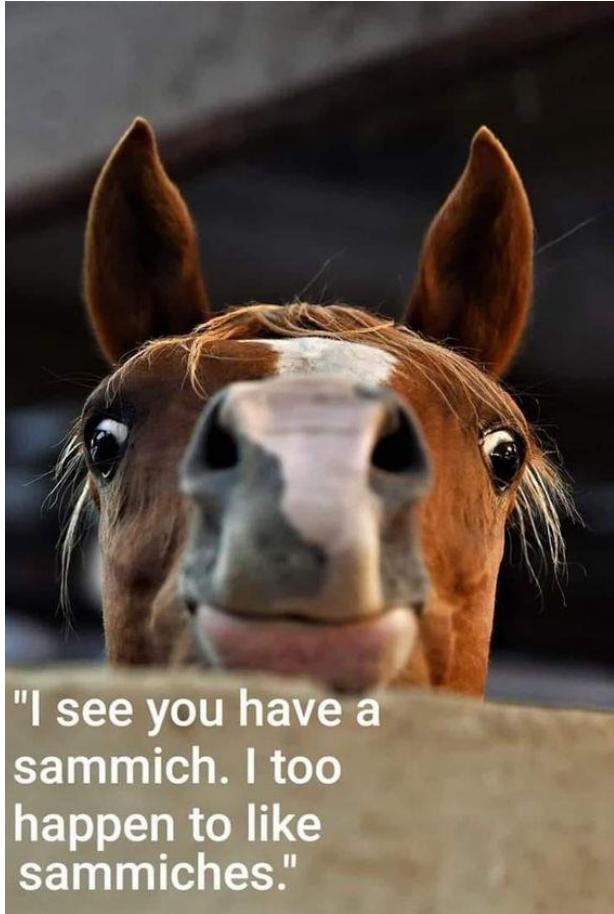
- ▶ Horses were first domesticated 1000 years ago  
TRUE/FALSE
- ▶ Horses arrived in Australia in \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Australia has the \_\_\_\_\_ highest number of horses per capita worldwide.
- ▶ Name three common breeds \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Hot blooded refers to the actual temperature of the horses body TRUE/FALSE.
- ▶ Which famous Australia's racehorse wowed crowds during the Great Depression of the 1930s  
\_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ Name two ways horses have played an important role in Australian history \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ What are the three environmental challenges farmers face in Australia \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_.
- ▶ How long did Cobb & Co Coaches operate for  
\_\_\_\_\_.

# NOTES



# HORSES





**"I see you have a  
sammich. I too  
happen to like  
sammiches."**



## RESOURCE

<http://blog.perthmint.com.au> <https://ashs.com.au>  
<https://www.vetvoice.com.au>  
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<https://www.mypets.net.au>  
<https://www.australiantraveller.com>  
<https://www.abc.net.au>  
<https://www.bbc.com/news/science>

Wikipedia