

# caballus

## [cah BAHL loos] horse

**cavalry** – a division of an army in which the soldiers ride horses

**cheval** – (*French*) horse

**chivalry** – a code of courteous conduct which was followed by knights (horsemen) of the Middle Ages

**caballo** – (*Spanish*) horse

**cavallo** – (*Italian*) horse

**chevalet** – (*French* - little horse) the bridge on a stringed musical instrument, as a violin; any wooden frame for holding or supporting something; equiv. to *cheval* - horse

**cavalcade** – procession of riders on horseback, or in carriages

**Chevalier, (Maurice)** – French actor and singer

### TEACHING NOTES:

The derivatives of this Latin word, **CABALLO**, are a beautiful example of spelling pronunciation (spelling a word the way it is spoken, rather than pronouncing it the way it is spelled). They show the changes in spelling that can occur according to the way people of different countries pronounce words. The Greeks pronounced their *b* (beta) as though it were the letter *v*, and they still do. The Spanish, who originally spoke a dialect of Latin, retained the “b” spelling in **CABALLO**, but their pronunciation of the letter is very soft and sounds more like a *v* to us than the bombastic *b* sounds we use in English. The French and Italians simply changed the letter *b* to a *v* in their derivative words.

The concept of **CHIVALRY** came from Latin through Old French into English; hence the French spelling and pronunciation of “ch” at the beginning of the word and, of course, in **Maurice Chevalier’s** name (the horseman, the knight), a wonderful name for an actor who always played such **CHIVALROUS** characters.

The French word **CHEVALET** is a diminutive of their word **CHEVAL**. It described as a “little horse” the bridge on a violin, cello, or bass viol. **CHEVALET** also is used to describe the wooden trestles supporting a bridge and even a sawhorse used in a carpenter’s shop.

A **CAVALCADE** was originally a parade of riders on horseback or horse drawn carriages, but it can be any long procession of vehicles or people or even ships. It is sometimes used to refer to the progression of historical events through decades or centuries.