

hippos

[HIP poss] horse

- hippopotamus (potamos G. - river) – river horse
- hippodrome (dromos G. - race course) – horse race track
- hippocampus (kampos G. - sea monster) – sea horse
- hippology (logos G. - word, study, Vol. I, p. 15) – study of horses
- hippophile (philia G. - love, Vol. I, p. 6) – one who loves horses
- Eohippus (eo G. - dawn) – dawn horse, a small extinct horse
- hippiatric (iatros G. - healer) – pertaining to treating the diseases of horses
- Hippotigris (tigris G. - tiger) – a subgenus of the *Equidae* family, including zebras

TEACHING NOTES:

A **HIPPOPOTAMUS** is a four-toed herbivorous mammal, able to remain underwater for extended periods, which lives in African rivers and estuaries (where a river meets the sea). A **HIPPODROME** for the Greeks was a large open stadium where chariot races were held. **HIPPOCAMPUS** refers to the curious, little, tube-nosed creatures we know as sea horses. In Greek mythology, Neptune, the God of the Sea, drove a chariot pulled by a fantastic creature also called **HIPPOCAMPUS**, with the body of a horse and the tail of a dolphin.

Philippos was a man's name in ancient Greece (a combined form of *philos* and *hippos*), so the name *Philip* means a man who loves horses. **EOHIPPIUS**, the earliest known species of the *Equidae* family, was a little, four-toed fellow who lived in the Eocene Era 65 million years ago. The U. S. Postal Service gave us a stamp with his picture on it a few years ago.

Scientists must have had fun coming up with the genus name of **HIPPOTIGRIS** (a horse with the markings of a tiger) for zebras. It might be a challenge to put the word **HIPPOTIGRIS** on the chalkboard and see if students can guess what kind of animal it is before giving them the definition. This can bring home the point that knowledge of Greek and Latin still plays a vital role in the sciences today and can help students figure out the meaning of words they don't already know.