

Interesting Facts about The Melbourne Cup

Student worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____



Photo credit: YouTube

The Melbourne Cup is an annual horse race that is run on the first Tuesday in November at Flemington Racecourse in Melbourne. It is a very important event in Australia. It is a public holiday in Melbourne but not in other states. The Melbourne Cup has grown to be a major event for Australian culture and the economy, with millions of dollars being bet on the race each year.

Melbourne Cup is also known as the "race that stops a nation" due to its popularity. It regularly attracts more than 100,000 people on Melbourne Cup Day and can attract more than 400,000 people over the 4-day Melbourne Cup Carnival.

History of the Melbourne Cup

The Melbourne Cup has been taking place since 1861 and the race itself is 3,200 meters long. The race starts at 3 pm on the first Tuesday of November each year, and it usually takes place on the first Tuesday of November. It is open for horses three years old and over.

The first public holiday for Melbourne Cup was in 1877, which is also the year that the race was first held. It was a day off for all Victorian workers and their families. The first Melbourne Cup was held in 1861 and was won by Archer. A horse bolted prior to the start and three horses fell during that race.

Prize money

The Melbourne Cup is one of the richest horse races in the world. The prize money for the Melbourne Cup in 2022 is \$8 million and the winner will receive \$4.4 million.

Tickets

Ticket prices for the Melbourne Cup start from \$90.75 for adults. General admission tickets give patrons access to all the general public areas on Melbourne Cup Day but if you're looking to purchase a reserved seat on Melbourne Cup Day, then ticket prices start from \$238.60.

Certain sections of the course will sell-out leading up to race-day. The Melbourne Cup birdcage is a section where celebrities, entrepreneurs and other famous people watch the Melbourne Cup and party.

Fashions on the field

People like to dress up for Melbourne Cup events and parties. Fashions on the Field is a fashion show that takes place during the Melbourne Cup. The event has been running for more than 10 years and it showcases clothes from various designers. The event also features celebrities and models. Before the Melbourne Cup, Advanced Australia Fair and Waltzing Matilda are usually played.

Melbourne Cup Sweeps

Employees in Australia often organise office sweeps for the Melbourne Cup, and as a social event, the sweep becomes the focus of the day's festivities. A Melbourne Cup sweep is a lucky draw competition. The names of every horse racing in the Melbourne Cup will be drawn out at random by a group of people. Typically, people must pay to enter the competition and that money goes towards the prize for the first, second, and third place.

There is a maximum of 24 horses starting in the race. If everyone pays \$1 for each horse that is drawn, this will give you a total prize

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pool of \$24. But if everyone pays \$20 for each horse that is drawn, this will give you a total prize pool of \$480.

The prize pool is then divided between first, second, and third-place winners. The first-place wins 60% of the total prize. The second-place wins 30% of the total prize. The third-place wins 10% of the total prize.

Phar Lap

Visitors can see the statue of Phar Lap at Flemington racecourse. Phar Lap was a champion New Zealand-bred Thoroughbred racehorse who is widely considered New Zealand's greatest racehorse ever. Phar Lap won the Melbourne Cup in 1930 and was the first horse to win the cup twice. People in Australia and visitors can also see the Phar Lap's mounted hide at the Melbourne Museum.

Animal Cruelty

But not everyone is a fan of the Melbourne Cup. In 2019, people protested against the event because of the mistreatment of horses in the Australian racing industry. Whips are used on horses, but they cause pain and injury to the horses. Horses are usually euthanized after a serious injury.

Sources: <https://www.sportingnews.com/au/horse-racing/news/melbourne-cup-2022-when-it-how-watch-prizemoney-tickets-betting-odds/z8sqbvmrjskvrhsc7xrjzfr>

1. Vocabulary

Match the words with their meaning

annual	a. superstars
Bet	b. generally
usually	c. organised
held	d. killed
celebrities	e. complained
euthanised	f. every year
protested	g. gamble

2. Comprehension

a. Why is the Melbourne Cup also known as the "race that stops a nation"?

b. When did the first Melbourne Cup happen?

c. What distance do horses run in the Melbourne Cup?

d. Can you purchase a ticket to enter the bird cage section? (why/why not?)

3. True / False

1. The Melbourne Cup is held every year at Flemington racecourse. ____

2. Horses are usually put down if they are bad injured after a race. ____

3. There is status of Phar Lap at Flemington racecourse. ____

4. Almost 100,000 people attend the Melbourne Cup ____

5. The Melbourne Cup is a national public holiday. ____

4. Speaking activity

1. Were you aware of the information before reading the articles?

2. Who do you think will win the Melbourne Cup this year?

3. Have you ever been to the Melbourne Cup? (why / why not?)

4. What is your favourite sport and why?

5. What is your opinion on horse racing?