Supplies – two or three English bridles.

Purpose: To familiarize the participants with words associated with parts of the bridle, their purpose and fit, and to put a bridle together.

Part I – Demonstration

Have the members watch as you take one of the bridles apart. Show them each piece and explain it’s purpose. Have them find this same piece on the extra bridles on the table. Then reassemble the bridle, having the members direct you as to how each piece should be put on. (you can refer the teacher’s copy of The Bridle worksheet below for answers if needed)

Part II – Bridle Worksheet – Part Purpose and Fit

Hand out The Bridle w/s, go over each point with them.

Part III – Simulated Stations Phase

Separate the members into small groups of 3 or 4. Have a bridle available to each group.

Have each group take apart a bridle. Make sure the more knowledgeable kids are GUIDING the newer kids, NOT DOING the task for them.

Once apart, pass that bridle to the group on their right, and the new group needs to put the bridle together.

When complete, and if there is time, show them how to figure 8 the bridle.
General Information:

1) **Purpose of the bridle**: used to communicate with your horse and it is the main source of control of your horse.

2) **Come in 4 sizes**: pony, cob, horse, large horse. (based on the average size of the horse’s head)

3) **Two primary types of English bridles**: Single and Double. Beginning riders use a Single bridle.
   a. A single has how many bits, and how many sets of reins? ___(1)_______
   b. A Double has how many bits, and how many sets of reins? ___(2)_____
   c. A bridle without a bit is called a Hackamore or Bitless Bridle.

4) **The main difference in bridles is the type of Noseband**:
   a. Cavesson Noseband – this is the standard English noseband and pictured in these handouts.
   b. **Dropped** Noseband – same as a Cavesson, but sits lower on the horses head, at the end of the nose, BELOW the bit. Used to keep horse from opening mouth to evade the bit.
   c. **Flash** Noseband - 2 pieces, a cavesson noseband adjusted high, with a bottom chin-strap BELOW the bit. Used to keep the horse’s mouth closed and hold the bit in position.
   d. **Figure-Eight** Noseband - 2 pieces in an X pattern, one piece higher, and one piece below the bit. Also used to keep the mouth closed, but sits higher on the nose to allow more expansion in his nostrils for fast work.
## Parts Purpose and Fit

**General:**
- All parts should be snug, not loose and sloppy. (if it was on your head would it hurt? Yes?, then it is too **TIGHT**. If it will slip right off the horse – it is too **LOOSE**)
- Need to be able to slip **ONE** finger under every part of the bridle.
- All straps should have keepers and runners fastened.
- There should be **TWO** holes above every buckle. *(do they know why?, in case of bridle breaks)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part</th>
<th>Purpose</th>
<th>Fit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headpiece (Crownpiece)</td>
<td>Hold the bridle onto the horse’s head</td>
<td>• 1 finger fits under. • Needs to have 2 extra hole above the cheekpiece buckle • Fit without rubbing or pinching the ears</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Throatlatch</td>
<td>Keep the bridle from slipping off over the horse’s head</td>
<td>• Fit fist or 4 fingers between this and the horse’s neck • Loose enough so horse can flex his neck without binding the throat.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheek piece</td>
<td>Connects the headpiece to the bit</td>
<td>• Be sure to have 2 extra holes above the buckle. • Don’t pull too tight – it will put too much pressure on the bit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noseband</td>
<td>It is often used to keep the animal's mouth closed, or to attach other pieces or equipment, such as martingales.</td>
<td>• It should sit 1 or 2 fingers below the horse’s cheekbones. • Snug, but allow for 1 or 2 fingers to slip underneath.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reins</td>
<td>Connects the rider to the bit and the bridle</td>
<td>• Have keepers for all buckled ends</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bit</td>
<td>Primary source of control through the horse’s mouth</td>
<td>• It should not hang too low in the horse’s mouth. • The Cheek piece should be tight enough to cause two small wrinkles in the lips.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brow band</td>
<td>It prevents the bridle from sliding behind the poll onto the upper neck</td>
<td>• Must be long enough so the bridle doesn’t rub and pinch the base of the ears.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What to know for USPC Ratings:
- **D3** - Describe proper adjustment of snaffle bridle with cavesson noseband. Describe proper adjustment of curb chain if used on own mount.
- AND All tack must be properly adjusted
- **C1** - Identify tack on own mount and discuss fit.