

TO TELL THE AGE OF HORSES

Two middle “nippers” you behold
Before the colt is two weeks old;
Before eight weeks two more will come;
Eight months the “corners” cut the gum.

The outside grooves will disappear
From middle two in just one year;
In two years from the second pair;
In three the corners, too, are bare.

At two the middle “nippers” drop,
At three the second pair can’t stop;
When four years old the third pair grows,
At five a full new set he shows.

The deep black spots will pass from view
At six years from the middle two;
The second pair at seven years;
At eight the spot each corner clears.

From middle “nippers” upper jaw,
At nine the black spots will withdraw;
The second pair at ten are white,
Eleven finds the “corners” light.

As times goes on, as horsemen know
The oval teeth three-sided grow;
They longer get, project before,
Till twenty, when we know no more.

Farmer & Stockbreeder (London) 1891

One white foot, buy a horse,
Two white feet, try a horse.
Three white feet, look well about him,
Four white feet, do without him

Old Rhyme