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PROJEKT: The EU as a Palette of Cultures - Getting to Know Each Other as a Path to Tolerance and Respect

JEREZ DE LA FRONTERA: CULTURE – ANDALUSIAN HORSES

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History of Andalusian horse

The Andalusian horse is named after the Spanish region of **Andalusia**.

Andalusian horse is from **Iberian Peninsula in Spain**. In 15th century lots of Kings and queens used them in wars. They were almost extinct. But later they used them for royal families or they used them for bull fights. People called them **royal horses of Europe**. Andalusian horse is similar to Lusitano, horse breed from Portugal.



How it looks like

Andalusian horses are often **taller and bigger than European normal horses**. They've got **big beautiful head with long, thick mane**. Their legs and body are very strong. Normal Andalusian horse can weigh **700 kg**. Their colours: most often they are **white or grey with black mane and tail**. Some breeds are **brown or black**, but white colours are most common. They live very long – for 15-18 years.

Before 1906 it wasn't possible to export them from Spain to the world. But now this Andalusian breed is over 185,000 around the world and these horses are very famous and expensive.

The Royal Andalusian school of equestrian art

Horses existed here already **3,000 years ago**. Sooner this school was used to train horses



for the kings and also as war horses. Now it is a very famous **dressage horse school**. An interesting fact from the history: in 1973 Don Alvaro Domecq Romero wanted to thank his king so he decided to teach his horses how to dance. And he founded a horse school in Jerez de la Frontera. It is famous for the show entitled “**How the Andalusian Horses Dance**”, a unique exhibition of horsemanship.

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My experience

I visited school on Wednesday 18th October 2023, when I was in Jerez on a group learning activity and we saw the stables, riding arenas and how people train horses and we visited the riding museum. **There were big beautiful stables for lots of horses.** I like this dressage riding style.

Below is one of the big riding arenas, where trainers and students train young horses. It is also used for a **show performance**. I didn't see a show, but I saw normal horse training.



On the right are stables in Royal Andalusian horse's academy, which we visited. Stables were very big and clean. There worked 16 riders and approximately 10 students – girls and boys. **There were 120 horses.**



“Dancing horses”

Andalusian horses are **very elegant** and they've got very good character for learning new exercises. They are trained for **dressage competitions**. In this academy they teach horses dressage exercises since young age. Every horse has got its own trainer who teaches them every day. Person who wants to work here must be a **very good rider**, because **there are best world riders**.



Horses from Andalusia **often win world cups**, because Andalusia is country with the best horses.

It is amazing to see dancing these beautiful horses. Always I wanted to see this show, because is it something magic. I would like to work there! So, I have to study more English and Spanish 😊