



HORSE RACES

Horse racing is an equestrian sport, involving two or more jockeys riding horses over a set distance for competition.



Horse races vary widely in format. Often, countries have developed their own particular horse racing traditions.

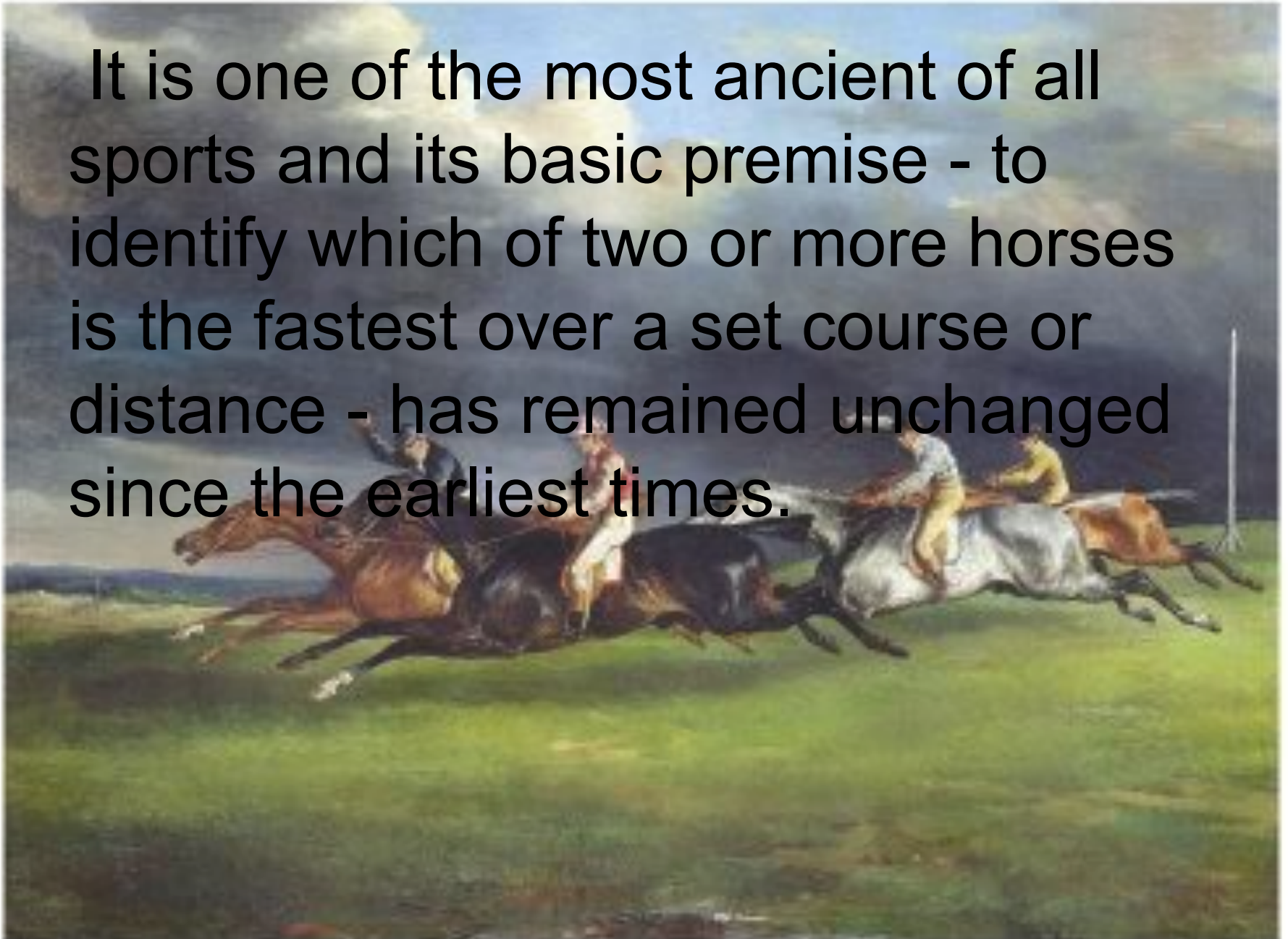



Variations include:

- restricting races to particular breeds
- running over obstacles
- running over different distances
- running on different track surfaces
- running in different gaits.



It is one of the most ancient of all sports and its basic premise - to identify which of two or more horses is the fastest over a set course or distance - has remained unchanged since the earliest times.



A mosaic depicting a horse race. Several jockeys are shown riding horses, with one horse in the foreground appearing to be in a lead position. The mosaic is composed of small, colorful tiles in shades of red, brown, and white. The scene is framed by a decorative border.

Horse racing has a long and distinguished history and has been practiced in civilizations across the world since ancient times.

Archaeological records indicate that horse racing occurred in Ancient Greece, Babylon, Syria, and Egypt. It also plays an important part of myth and legend.

In later times, Thoroughbred racing was, and is, popular with the aristocrats and royalty of British society, earning it the title "Sport of Kings."



Many of the
sport's greatest
jockeys, most
notably Sir
Gordon
Richards have
been British.



At many horse races, there is a gambling station, where gamblers can stake money on a horse.



Dangers

A photograph of a horse race. In the foreground, a dark brown horse is running. A jockey in a white and purple striped shirt is riding it. To the left, another horse is stumbling or falling. A jockey in a green and yellow striped shirt is lying on the grass, having fallen from their horse. The background shows a grassy field and a white fence.

There are many dangers in horse racing for both horse and jockey: a horse can stumble and fall, or fall when jumping an obstacle, exposing both jockey and horse to the danger of being trampled and injured.