

WHAT WOULD BROCK DO? Sir Arthur Currie & Horses in WWI

Born December 5, 1875 in Napperton, ON and attending Strathroy Collegiate Institute (S.C.I.) at age 14, Arthur Currie knew the Strathroy-Caradoc area well. He enjoyed literature and debating but when his father died, Arthur was just 16 and could not afford university. Arthur attended Model School to become a teacher, but could not find a job. In April of 1894, at age 19 he left Strathroy and headed west to Victoria, British Columbia, joining the militia in 1897.

Enlisting at the lowest rank of gunner in the 5th (B.C.) Regiment, Canadian Garrison Artillery, Currie became a dedicated soldier and rose rapidly through the ranks. At the outbreak of war in 1914, Canadian Minister of Militia and Sir Arthur Currie Commander of the Canadian Corps, WWI Defence Sam Hughes offered Currie command of an infantry brigade being formed at Valcartier, Quebec. He accepted command of the 2nd Canadian Infantry Brigade in the Canadian Expeditionary Force and focused on training his soldiers for war. Leading troops through iconic battles such as Vimy, Passchendaele and Mons, Currie believed that “the price of victory should be paid in shells and not lives.”

Sir Arthur Currie was an ordinary man who accomplished extraordinary things. From the fields of his southwestern Ontario homestead, to the front lines of the Great War, Sir Arthur Currie rose from farm boy to commander of the Canadian Expeditionary Force — the first Canadian to lead Canadians in war. Currie’s childhood and education played a part in shaping his character, his commitment to preparation and planning, and the humbleness with which he served making him a HOMETOWN HERO. Coming from a family with no connection to the military, Currie became a soldier of great prominence. Currie returned to Strathroy after the war for homecoming celebrations in September 1919 and visited the area numerous times until his death in 1933 in Montreal. Currie is honoured through commemorative efforts across the country, including local recognition at Strathroy District Collegiate Institute, the Legion Branch (116), and in the Sir Arthur Currie Memorial Statue located in front of the museum on Frank Street.

Did you know? Sir Arthur Currie has a horse named Brock. Here’s some information about Brock, and the role of horses in WWI:

- Brock was Sir Arthur Currie’s horse for the duration of WWI
- Brock was always a part of big events with Currie, brought to many great Battles
- When he was a younger horse, Brock was a Show Horse earning many ribbons
- Horses were used as a form of transportation in WWI
- Cavalry officers were more supreme than regular soldiers; they sat higher up and seemed to have more power
- Since horses were so large, it was hard for them to sneak into small places and be safe
- Bringing materials to the soldiers at the front lines was one of the main responsibilities of cavalry in WWI
- Horses needed little upkeep compared to war vehicles and could get into smaller spaces
- Brock was one of the few horses to survive the travel to the Western Front and back again; he was a tough horse
- Brock liked to keep busy and missed the action of war he shared with Currie, said to have a “Fighting Fellowship”
- Brock was a friend to Currie during the war
- Animals helped to comfort people involved in the war and also provided focus in tough situations - Brock was a constant companion for Currie

WHAT WOULD BROCK DO?

M S B D U Y A F F T X S O R Y
T V O N X X A F R A E V L P P
M T D L W L T B I G F M P C P
L W N I D H A X E H I M L Z O
U A Y O S I G F N E O P F E P
O O K K R E E D D O I D S W H
Q P L J F F H R D F E T V N E
A I I H Q X E C N E W V E G V
X V T G J R U M N O D O X E G
E S R O H B N J O E U B I B T
E M Y Q T X R E K H R R I A W
O S K B C I C O K U R T N D N
A R R M R H H L C U H K B L V
C H B F J E L J C K J B F X K
F P T E J Y I N B O N I X N K

BROCK	TRENCHES
SOLDIER	HELMET
HORSE	FRIEND
HOMEFRONT	TANK
CURRIE	POPPY



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GENERAL SIR ARTHUR
CURRIE

<< QUE FERAIT BROCK? >>

T R A N C H É E S T X S O R E
T V O N X X A F R A E V L U P
M T D L C H E V A L F M Q C P
L W N I D H A X E H I S L Z O
U A S O L D A T N E A P F E P
O O K K R E E D D C I D S W H
M P L J F F H R D F E T V N E
A I I H Q X E C N E W V E G V
I V T G A R U M N O C H A R G
S S R O M B N J O E U B I B T
O M Y Q I X R E K H R R I A W
N S K B C I C O K U R T N D N
A R R M R H H L C U H K B L V
C H B F J E L J C K J B F X K
F C O Q U E L I C O T I X N K

TRANCHÉES

CASQUE

CHAR

MAISON

SOLDAT

CHEVAL

AMI

COQUALICOT



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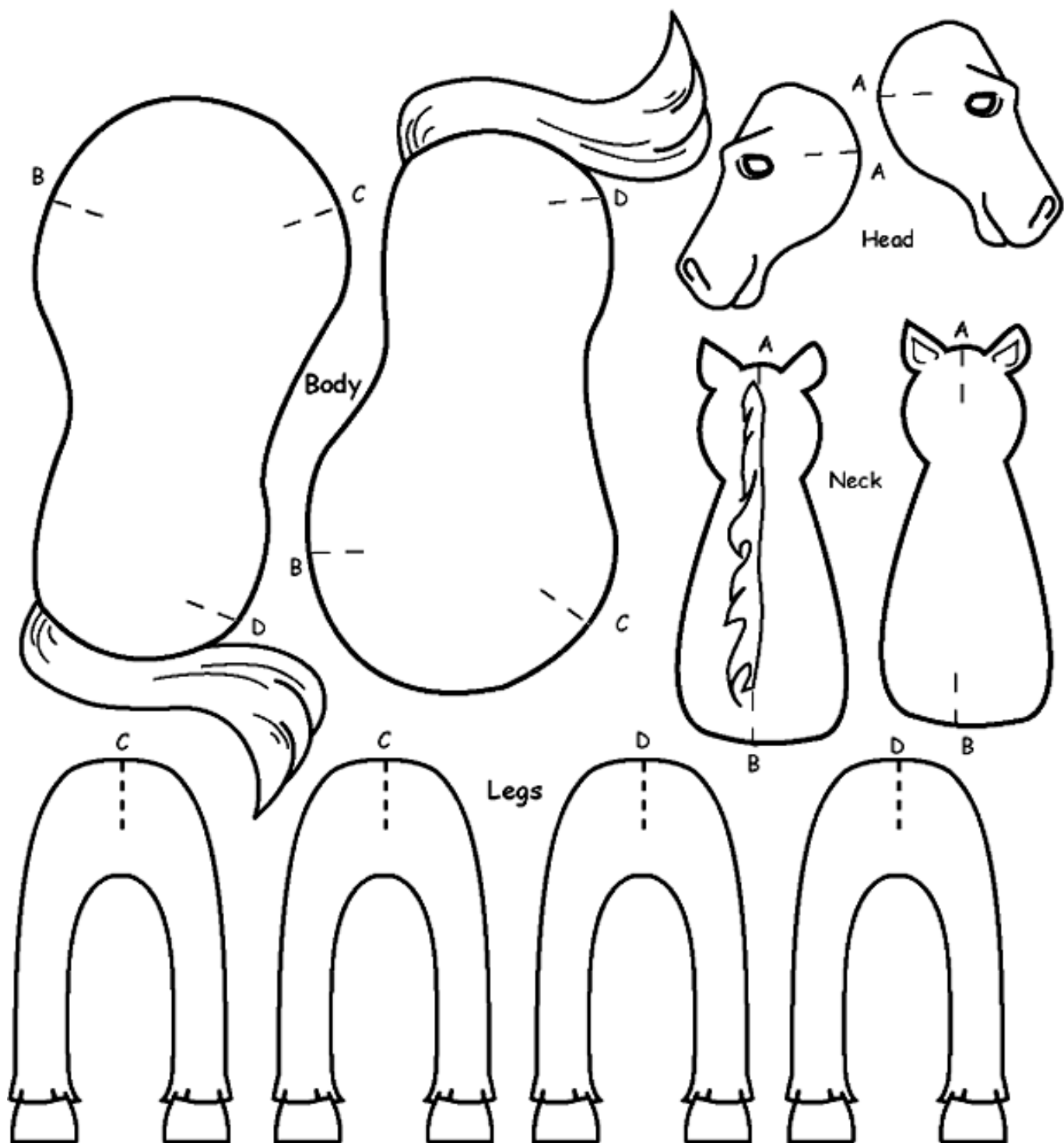
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CURRIE

STAND-UP Horse

Directions:

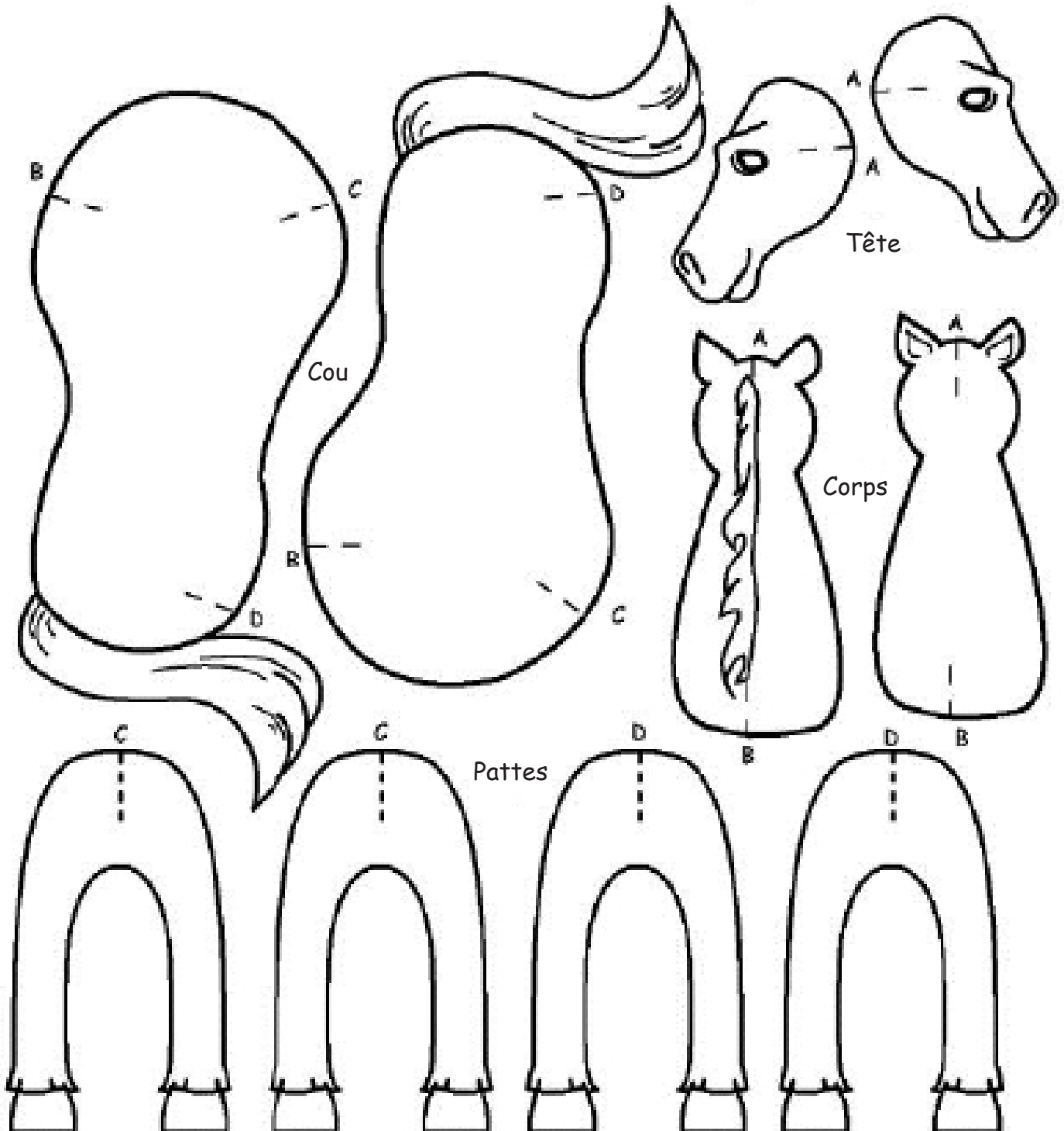
1. Print out this page and color with Crayola crayons or markers. Glue page to a thin piece of cardboard, such as a recycled cereal box or manila folder.
2. After the glue dries, cut out the cardboard shapes, remember where the letters are. Glue the matching shapes together, back to back.
3. Cut a slit on each dotted line. Fit the pieces together by matching the letters and sliding the slots into each other.



CHEVAL DEBOUT

Directives :

1. Imprimez cette page et coloriez le dessin avec des crayons de couleur ou des marqueurs. Collez la page sur un carton mince, par exemple une boîte de céréales recyclée ou une chemise en papier kraft.
2. Une fois que la colle est sèche, découpez les formes de carton; n'oubliez pas où les lettres se trouvent. Collez ensemble les formes correspondantes, dos à dos.
3. Coupez une fente sur chaque ligne pointillée. Assemblez les formes en les faisant correspondre et en insérant les fentes l'une dans l'autre.





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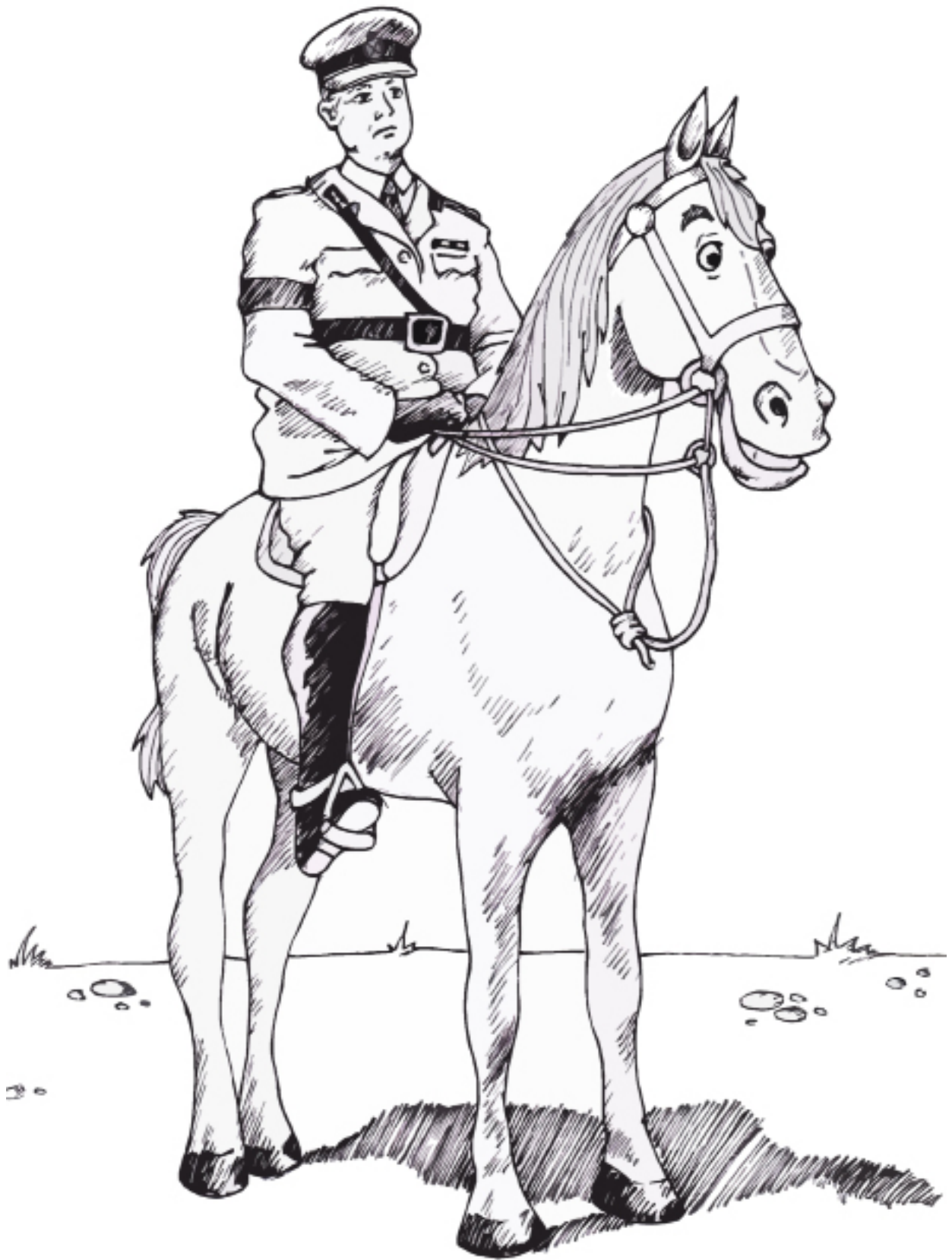
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CURRIE

GENERAL SIR ARTHUR CURRIE AND HIS HORSE BROCK /
GÉNÉRAL SIR ARTHUR CURRIE ET SON CHEVAL BROCK



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