



## Donkeys Have Character! What makes them different?

### STUDENT INTRODUCTION

- ▶ In this activity you will learn what makes donkeys different from other animals.
- ▶ You will find out what happens when donkeys breed with other animals such as horses.
- ▶ Use the information boards around the Sanctuary to answer the following challenges!

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» The babies of an animal are usually named after their parent.

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» We are going to look at what happens when two different animals breed together.

» Use the information boards at the Sanctuary to find answers to the following questions.

» All of the answers are out there! You might have to read quite a few boards to find them all...

Definition of species in English:  
noun (plural same)

1 (abbreviation: **sp.**, **spp.**)

**Biology** A group of living organisms consisting of similar individuals capable of exchanging genes or interbreeding. The species is the principal natural taxonomic unit, ranking below a genus and denoted by a Latin binomial, e.g. *Homo sapiens*.

Q1. What is a **mule**?

Q2. What is a **male donkey** called?

Q3. What is a **female donkey** called?

Q4. How many **chromosomes** does a **donkey** have?

Q5. How many **chromosomes** does a **mule** have?

Q6. What is the **offspring** (baby) of a **female donkey** and a **male horse** called?



Q7. Explain how a **mule** is different from a **donkey** in your own words.

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### TASK TWO

- » Look around the Sanctuary until you find some **ponies**.
- » Write about the **differences** you can see between **donkeys** and **ponies** in the space below.

**TASK THREE**

- » Your teacher may ask you to do this section back at school when you can access the internet.
- » However all of the basic information you need can be found on the notice boards at the Donkey Sanctuary!
- » Simply answer the following questions!

Q1. How do **donkeys**, **ponies** and **mules** differ in their **behaviour**?

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Q2. Why **shouldn't** you brush a **donkey** on a cold wet day?

