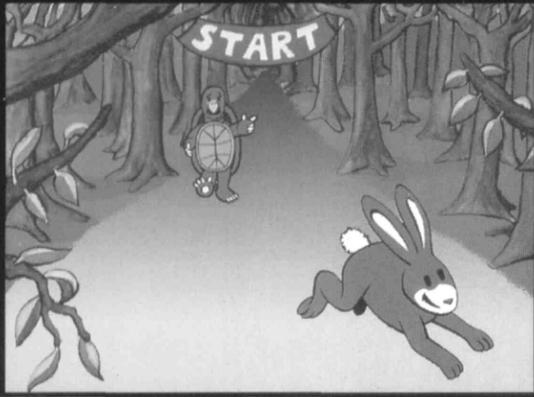


AESOP'S FABLES



-
- Suggested Instructional Procedures
 - Script

AESOP'S
FABLES

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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PRODUCED BY

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CONTENTS

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	Page
Program Overview	4
Student Objectives	5
Suggested Lesson Plan	5
Introduction	5
Previewing Activities	5
Post-viewing Activities	6
Answer Key	7
Transcript of the Video	7

AESOP'S FABLES

TIME: 12 MINUTES

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The program opens with a brief explanation of Aesop and his fables. The viewer learns that fables are stories that can teach us important lessons about life. The first story, *The Grasshopper and the Ants*, shows the grasshopper singing and playing all summer long. He fails to plan for the cold winter days ahead. By the end of the story, the viewer learns that *when you need your daily bread, it's always best to plan ahead*. The second story, *The Tortoise and the Hare*, teaches that persistence and determination can be more important than speed and dexterity (natural ability). The third story, *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, is told in a humorous style, but the lesson is, of course, very serious: *when you say what isn't true, people lose their faith in you*. The final story, perhaps lesser known than the others, is

The Horse's Mistake. A horse, on the way to market with his friend, the donkey, refuses to help pull the heavy load. When the donkey collapses, the horse is required to carry not only the load of wheat, but the donkey, as well.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing this video and participating in the suggested activities, students should be able to do the following:

- (1) Briefly retell each fable.
- (2) Recite each moral in their own words.
- (3) Relate each fable's moral to their own lives.
- (4) Tell which fable is their favorite, and why.

SUGGESTED LESSON PLAN

1. INTRODUCTION

Ask your students what their favorite stories are. Briefly talk about the stories mentioned. Then help your students see that there are different kinds of stories, some true, some make-believe, some funny, some exciting, and so on. Then tell the class that some stories are called "fables."

2. PREVIEWING ACTIVITIES

Tell the class that they **will now see a video**

entitled "Aesop's Fables." Explain that Aesop lived thousands of years ago in the country of Greece. If you have a classroom map or globe, show the class where Greece is located. Define "fable" as a story that can teach us important lessons about life. Discuss why Aesop's fables are still popular, even though they are thousands of years old. Help your students understand that people, no matter when or where they live, behave in certain ways. Tell the class that the stories talk about putting off one's chores (procrastination), being too sure of oneself (over-confidence), telling lies, and not being cooperative. If you feel your class will get more out of the stories by viewing them one at a time, you may find it desirable to show the program in four different sessions.

3. POST-VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Discuss each story. Ask the children which story they liked the most, and why. Which animal did they like the most? Discuss each moral, then help the children relate each fable's moral to their own lives. For *The Grasshopper and the Ants*, ask the children what happens to them when they put off important chores. For *The Tortoise and the Hare*, ask if anyone has ever done something that was very difficult, but was successful anyway because he or she didn't give up (like the tortoise). Has anyone ever failed to do something because he or she was overconfident? For *The Boy Who Cried Wolf*, ask if anyone knows a person who tells lies (without naming names). Can that person be trusted? Finally, for *The Horse's Mistake*, ask what happens when someone fails to cooperate. Help your students understand that more work for everyone else is the result. At the appropriate time,

hand out "Help the Tortoise," "Help the Ants Find Food," "What Happened Next?" and "The Donkey's Puzzle." If your children are unable to complete these exercises alone, do them as a class activity.

ANSWER KEY

"What Happened Next?" The wolf sits with a full stomach.

"The Donkey's Puzzle" 1. Down: Wheat; 2. Down: Frolic; 3. Down: Fell; 4. Across: Heavy; 5. Across: Farmer; 6. Across: Hill

TRANSCRIPT OF THE VIDEO

STORYTELLER: Long ago, in ancient Greece, there was a famous storyteller named Aesop.

He was best known for his animal fables. Fables are stories that can teach us important lessons about life.

As the years passed, Aesop's fables were handed down from grandparents and parents to their children and grandchildren.

Unlike the storytellers, they never seemed to grow old.

Perhaps one reason is that all good stories are fun to listen to, regardless of their age.

Also, times may change, but people, and what happens to them when they behave in certain ways, remain very much the same.

For example, we learn from the stories that those who are lazy often suffer when they refuse to work, or when they put off important chores.

And that's what our first Aesop's fable is all about. It's called "The Grasshopper and the Ants."

Once, there was a grasshopper who loved to sing. He sang during the day, and he sang during the night.

When he wasn't singing, he could be found hopping around, playing tag with the all other grasshoppers.

Of course, he had to take some time off from his play so he could eat.

During the warm summer days, there were plenty of juicy, tender leaves to munch.

One day, when the grasshopper was eating a particularly fine milkweed leaf, he noticed a line of tiny ants marching along in the grass.

He was curious about them. He wanted to know why they seemed so very busy.

GRASSHOPPER: Pardon me. But may I ask what you are doing?

ANT: Why, we're carrying food to our home, where we store it for the cold winter months ahead.

GRASSHOPPER: It's still summer. There's plenty of time for that! I'd rather sing and play and eat!

ANT: Well, we ants have fun, too! But we know one must also work hard to prepare for the cold weather ahead!

GRASSHOPPER: Oh, go on!

STORYTELLER: The grasshopper thought the ants were very foolish to work so hard on such a fine summer day. That wasn't for him!

So, after lunch, he sang to his lady love, played some more tag, and then curled up under the branch of a sycamore tree to take a nap.

Now, this went on all summer long, until, one day, the winds of autumn began to blow.

And when they did, the ants worked even harder! They wanted to be sure there would be enough food for themselves and their children when snow covered the ground.

Finally, the grasshopper decided that now would be a good time to set aside some food for himself.

Ah, but it was too late! All the food was either dried out, spoiled, taken — or had been blown away by the cold autumn winds.

The grasshopper was becoming very hungry.

GRASSHOPPER: Pardon me, but do you have any food to spare?

ANT: Oh, I'm sorry, but I've heard it's going to be a very long, cold winter this year. And I need to make certain there's enough food for my little ones.

However, if I have anything left at the end of winter, Til be happy to share with you.

STORYTELLER: Everywhere he went, it was the same story.

And so the grasshopper learned an important lesson, which just happens to be the moral of this story.

When you need your daily bread, it's always best to plan ahead.

The tortoise and the hare.

There was once a hare who loved to brag about how fast he could run.

HARE: I am the fastest runner in the forest. There is no one who even comes close.

STORYTELLER: Well, his friend, the tortoise, had heard this boast many times before, and by now, was growing tired of it.

TORTOISE: You're not as fast as me!

HARE: Ha! Ha! Ha! You're a tortoise! You're as slow as molasses!

TORTOISE: Well, I'll tell you what. To prove that I'm faster than you, I'll challenge you to a race!

HARE: Ha! Ha! Ha! You? Raceme? Ha! Okay, if you're foolish enough to challenge me, I accept!

STORYTELLER: The two immediately set a route for the race. And then off they went, the hare shooting from the starting line as fast as lightning! And the tortoise? Well, that was another story!

In a matter of minutes, the hare was hopping far, far ahead of the tortoise, who slowly lumbered along, only a short distance from the starting line.

After awhile, the hare decided that he was so far ahead that he could rest.

HARE: I think I'll take a little nap. I have plenty of time.

STORYTELLER: So he curled up under a big tree and fell fast asleep.

As the hot sun moved across the sky, the tree's cool shade pulled the hare deeper and deeper into sleep. Hours passed, and he didn't wake up.

In time, the tortoise quietly walked by the hare.

As evening approached, the hare finally awoke.

HARE: Oh, my goodness! I better get going!

STORYTELLER: Ah, but it was too late! For the tortoise had been waiting at the finish line for more than an hour!

The hare, who still thought he was the fastest runner in the forest, learned an important lesson.

If you want to win the race, use a determined, steady pace.

Not all Aesop's fables are about animals. Sometimes people are in them. One example is "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

Once there was a shepherd who did the same thing day after day. And he didn't like it.

SHEPHERD: It's boring to watch sheep eat grass all the time! I need to do something to spice up my life.

STORYTELLER: The shepherd hit upon what seemed to be a wonderful plan.

SHEPHERD: Oh, I know! I'll run through the village and shout, "Help! A wolf is attacking my sheep! Help me chase him away!"

STORYTELLER: And that's exactly what he did!

The villagers, being helpful folk, stopped what they were doing, and dashed to the shepherd's field to chase away the wolf!

But when they arrived, they discovered there wasn't any wolf!

VILLAGER: Hey, what's going on?

SHEPHERD: Ha! Ha! Ha! Fooled you!

STORYTELLER: Well, the shepherd thought it was a wonderful joke. But the villagers were not at all amused!

A week passed, and things got back to normal. Once again, the shepherd was bored.

SHEPHERD: You know, I had a lot of fun last week. I think I'll do that joke again!

STORYTELLER: So he did.

And, once again, the villagers, being helpful folk, ran to his field, only to find that they had been, once more, the victims of a prank.

SHEPHERD: Oooh! Hee, hee, hee! Gotcha!

VILLAGER: Uh, huh. Very funny.

STORYTELLER: The shepherd didn't seem to understand that the villagers were getting upset at his antics.

And so several weeks later, he again ran back and forth, through the streets, yelling at the top of his lungs that the terrible wolf was attacking his sheep.

SHEPHERD: It's attacking my sheep! It's attacking my sheep!

STORYTELLER: This time, however, the villagers came only very reluctantly.

And when they saw they had been fooled once again, they were very, very angry!

The shepherd finally understood that the townsfolk didn't like being lied to.

Then, one day, a wolf really did attack the shepherd's flock.

Of course, the shepherd dashed to the village for help. But when he told everyone about the wolf, no one believed him.

SHEPHERD: No, really. I'm telling the truth this time.

VILLAGER #1: Oh, right.

VILLAGER #2: Fool me once, shame on you. Fool me more than once, shame on me!

STORYTELLER: Well, since no one came to chase away the wolf, he had a very fine feast, indeed!

By the time the shepherd returned to his field, his entire flock was gone. And then it came to him: When you say what isn't true, people lose their faith in you. And that is the moral of "The Boy Who Cried Wolf."

When the villagers rushed to help the shepherd in "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," they showed that they were cooperative. They were willing to help one another.

Our next Aesop's fable, "The Horse's Mistake," is about a horse who isn't cooperative, and ... well, as you watch, you'll see what happens.

Once, a farmer took **some** wheat to **market**. All of it was

loaded onto a cart pulled by his donkey.

The farmer's horse refused to help. Instead, he insisted on kicking up his heels and frolicking along the road.

After several hours of pulling the heavy load, the donkey noticed, in the distance, a very steep hill.

He was hot and tired, and knew it would be difficult to pull the cart all the way to the top.

So he asked his friend, the horse, for some help.

DONKEY: I don't think I can make it much farther without some help. Could you carry some wheat for me?

HORSE: Naaay! Not me! Why, that hill is the hardest part of the journey.

STORYTELLER: The donkey pleaded with the horse, but it was no use. The horse just ran away, and once again began to frolic!

Well, the hill was even more difficult to climb than the donkey had imagined. About halfway up, he stopped, his legs began to buckle, and he fell down in a heap!

When he explained that he couldn't get up, the farmer called the horse and loaded all the wheat onto his back - and the donkey, as well!

And up walked the horse, struggling with a much heavier load than he would have had if he had just helped the donkey in the first place. The moral of this tale?

For yours and everyone else's sake, cooperate! The fables in

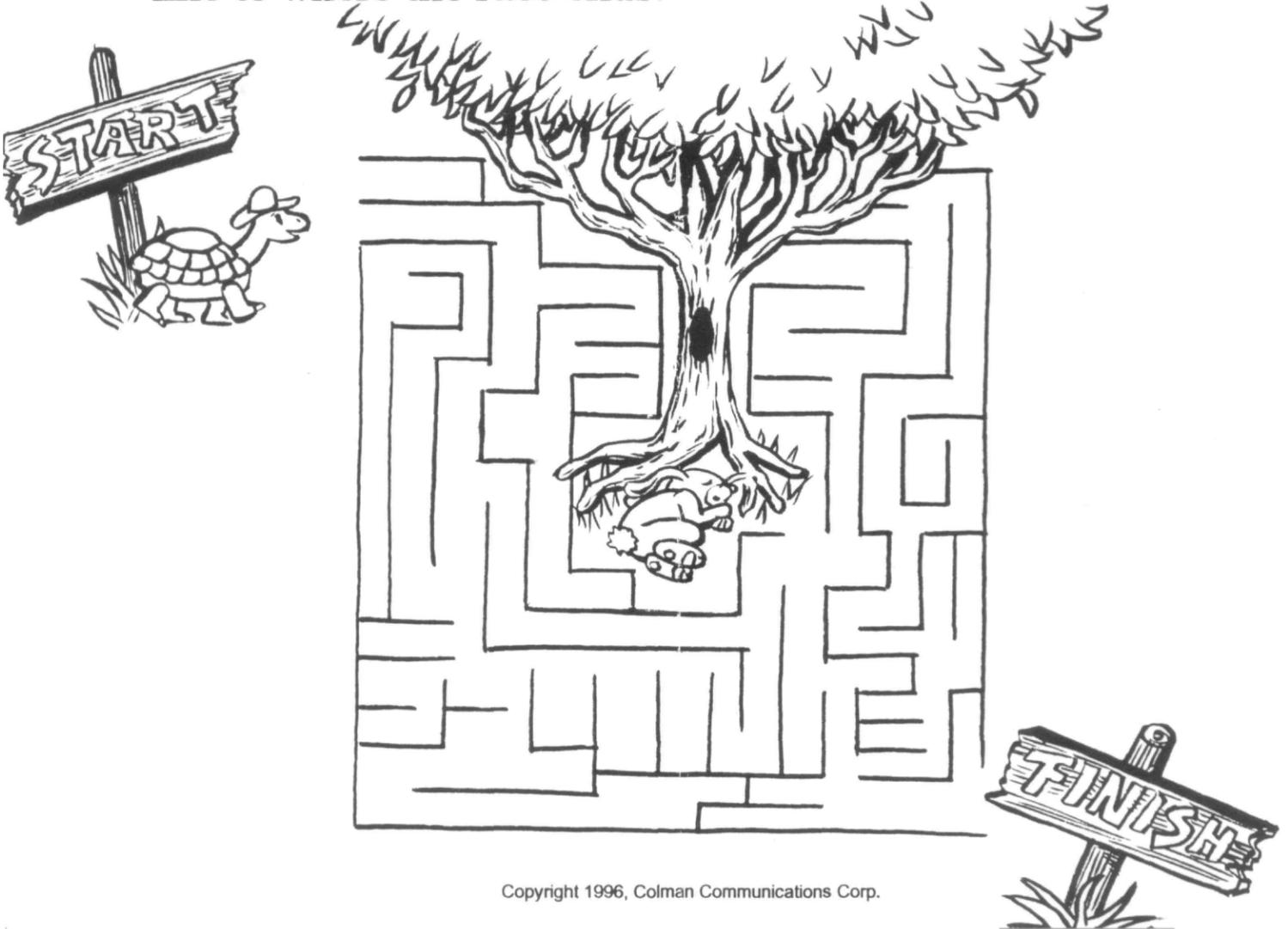
this program are only four of the hundreds of

Aesop's fables you can find in books. If you've enjoyed these stories, why not visit your library or your learning or media center, where you can find many more of them?

Name _____

Help the Tortoise

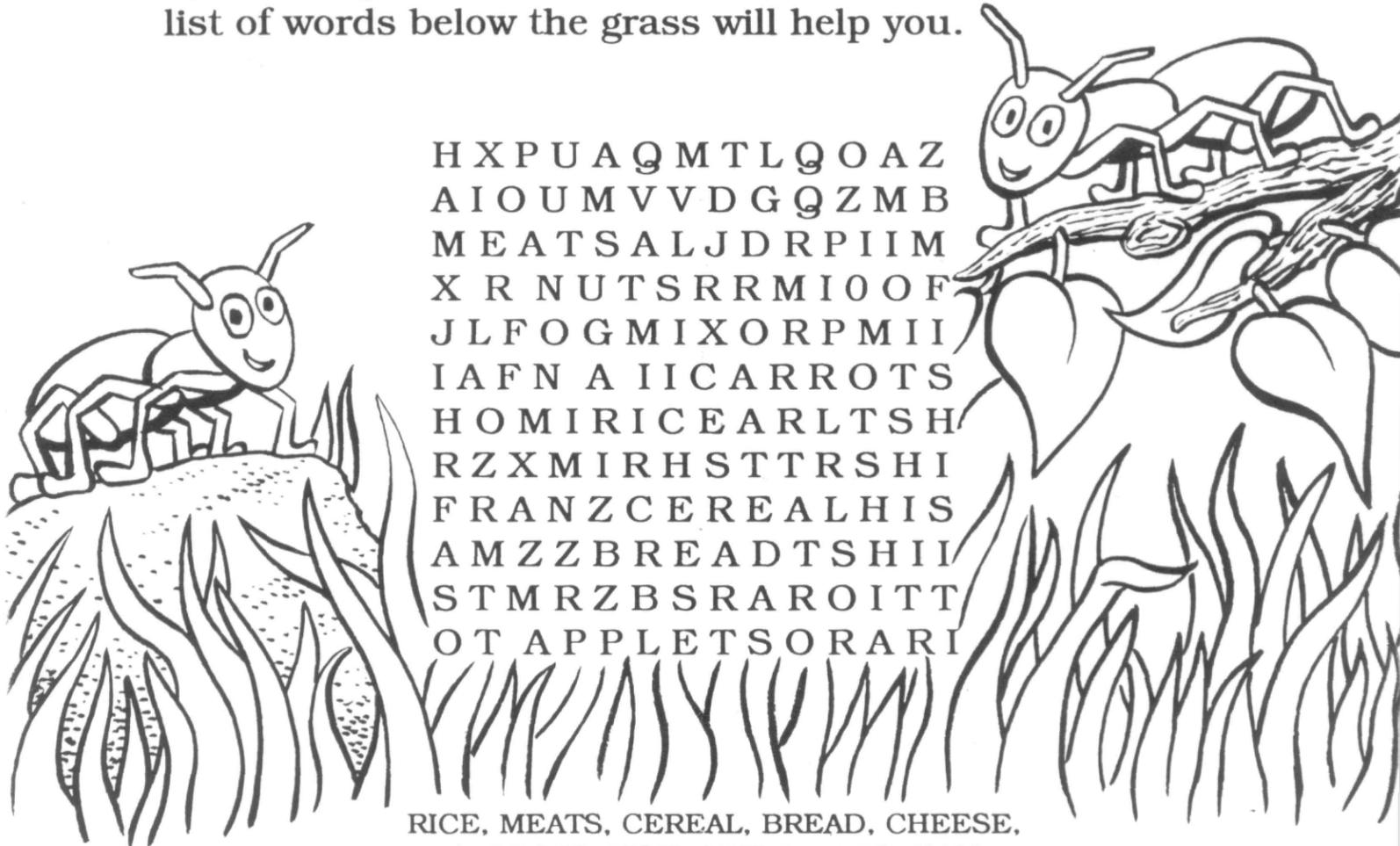
Instructions: Help the tortoise win the race by drawing a line to where the race ends.



Name _____

Help the Ants Find Food

Instructions: Help the ants find food in the grass patch by drawing a circle around the foods hidden there. The list of words below the grass will help you.



HXPUAQMTLQOAZ
AIOUMVVDGQZMB
MEATSALJDRPIIM
XRNUTSRRMIOOF
JLFOGMIXORPMII
IAFNAIICARROTS
HOMIRICEARLTSH
RZXMIRHSTTRSHI
FRANZCEREALHIS
AMZZBREADTSHII
STMZRZBSRAROITT
OTAPPLETSORARI

RICE, MEATS, CEREAL, BREAD, CHEESE,
CARROTS, FISH, APPLE, NUTS, HAM

Name _____

What Happened Next?

Instructions: Look at the first six pictures. Color them with your magic markers or crayons. Then color one of the last two pictures that would happen next. Put an "X" over the picture that wouldn't happen next.



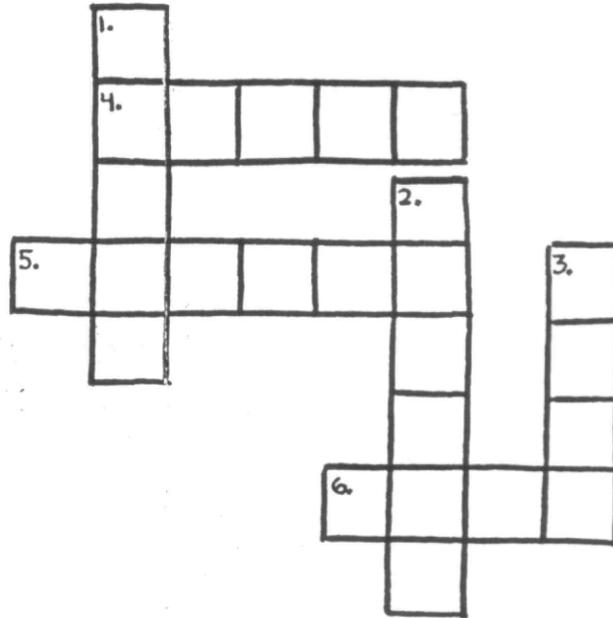
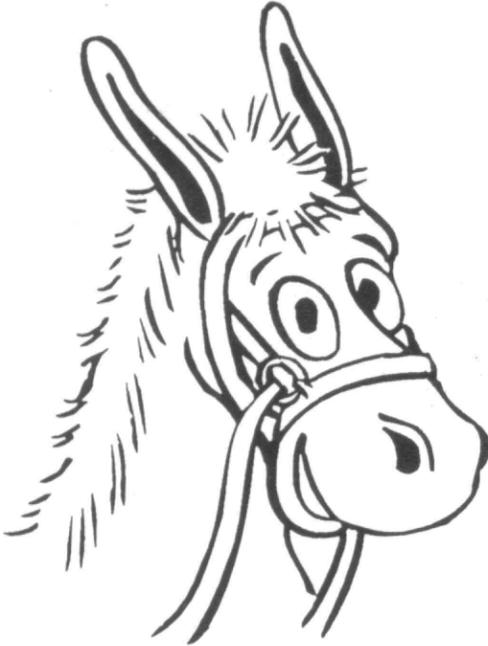
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Name _____

The Donkey's Puzzle

Instructions: Fill in the crossword puzzle.



Down:

1. What was in the cart?
2. What did the horse like to do?
3. What did the donkey do when he was tired?

Across:

4. The load of wheat was very _____.
5. He owned the donkey.
6. The donkey had to climb this.

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