MEET THEM AT PLUMPTON PARK ZOO

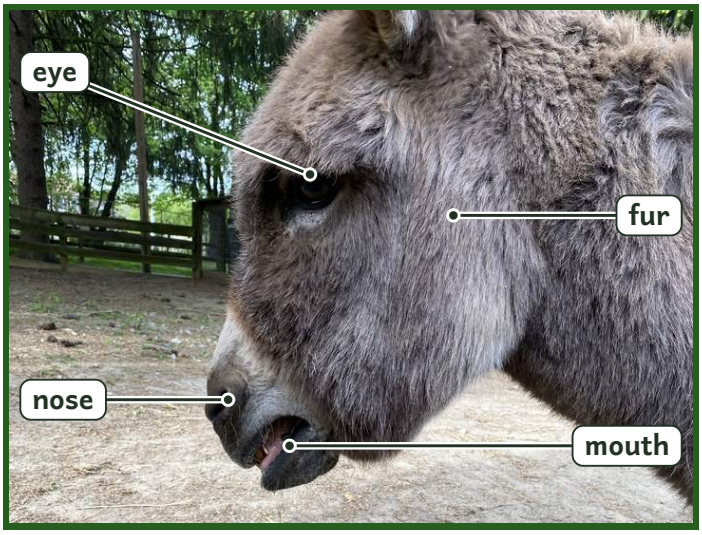
SICILIAN DONKEY

Equus asinus

GRADES K–2

Teacher & Student Fact Sheet · © **2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
Teachers may copy and share this sheet freely as long as they credit Plumpton Park Zoo.

Teachers: read this page aloud, one part at a time (about 5 minutes). Children follow along and say the bold words.



A close look at a donkey at our zoo.

Its body

A donkey has long ears.
It has a tuft on its tail.
It is small even when grown.

Its home (habitat)

This donkey came from Sicily.
Sicily is an island.
Max, Nippy and Winnie live at our zoo.



■ Breed developed here ★ Plumpton Park Zoo, Rising Sun, MD

Its food

It eats grass and hay.

Its babies (life cycle)

A baby donkey is a **foal**.
A female is a **jennet**.
A foal stands soon after birth.
It drinks its mother's milk.

Fun facts

Its **bray** can carry 2 miles!
It stops to check for danger.

Words to know

bray: a donkey's loud call
foal: a baby donkey
jennet: a female donkey

Talk about it

1. How far can a donkey's bray carry?
2. Why does a donkey stop and wait?
3. What can a foal do soon after birth?

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/sicilian-donkey/ · **Sources:** Oklahoma State University, Breeds of Livestock; Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Agribusiness; Animal Diversity Web; Mammal Diversity Database
Supports Maryland and Delaware (NGSS) and Pennsylvania (STEELS) standards: K-LS1-1 (3.1.K.A) · 1-LS1-2 (3.1.1.B)
Plumpton Park Zoo · 1416 Telegraph Rd, Rising Sun, MD 21911 · (410) 658-6850 · plumptonparkzoo.org · a 501(c)(3) nonprofit zoo · Photo: Plumpton Park Zoo

SICILIAN DONKEY

Before and after your visit

GRADES K–2

Page 2 of the sicilian donkey fact sheet for grades K–2 · **© 2026 Plumpton Park Zoological Gardens Inc.**
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Name _____ **Date** _____

Before you visit · 5 minutes

What do you think? Circle **YES** or **NO**.

1. A donkey has long ears. **YES** **NO**
2. A small donkey is always a baby. **YES** **NO**
3. A baby donkey is a foal. **YES** **NO**
4. A donkey eats meat. **YES** **NO**

At the zoo · with a partner

Check each one you see.

- ☐ long ears
- ☐ tufted tail
- ☐ eyes
- ☐ nose
- ☐ mane
- ☐ hooves

What is it doing? Circle one.

eating · walking · braying · resting

After your visit · 10 minutes

Draw a donkey with long ears. Show it braying.

Draw here

A donkey has _____

I learned that _____

ADJUST IT Kindergarten: read everything aloud; children talk and draw, and an adult writes their words. **Grade 2:** children read page 1 on their own. **Grades 3–5:** use the regular sicilian donkey sheet on Teacher Resources. **Second source:** read about this animal in your class database or a library book too, then ask what both said and what was new. **No zoo trip?** Check off what you can find in the photo on page 1. **Answers:** 1 yes, 2 no, 3 yes, 4 no.

Learn more: plumptonparkzoo.org/mammals/sicilian-donkey/ · Page 1 of this sheet has the words and picture this page refers to.
Science, grades K–1: Maryland and Delaware (NGSS): K-LS1-1 · 1-LS1-2 · Pennsylvania (STEELS): 3.1.K.A · 3.1.1.B
Reading and writing, grade 1: Maryland and Delaware: RI.1.1 · RI.1.7 · RI.1.9 · W.1.8 · Pennsylvania: CC.1.2.1.B · CC.1.2.1.G · CC.1.2.1.I · CC.1.4.1.W
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