



science

Mules



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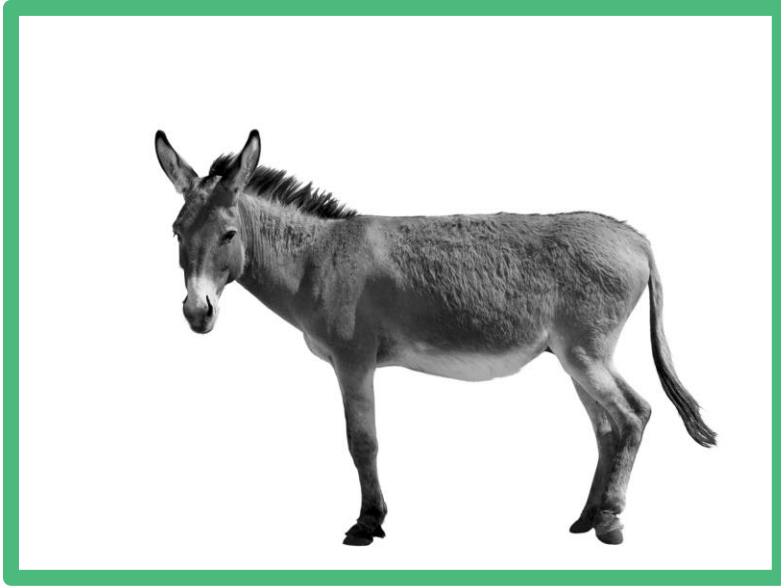
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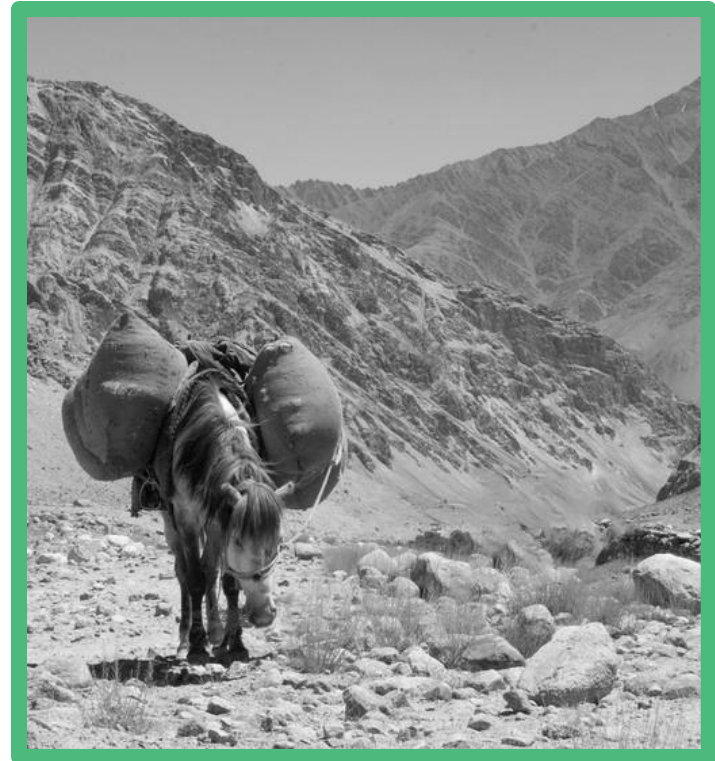
A mule is a special animal in the equine family. A mule's mother is a horse, and its father is a donkey.



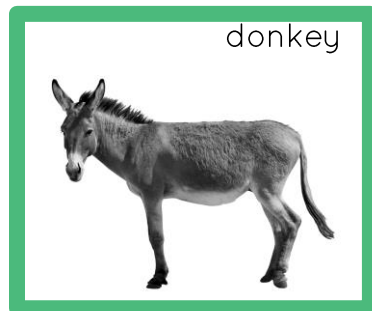
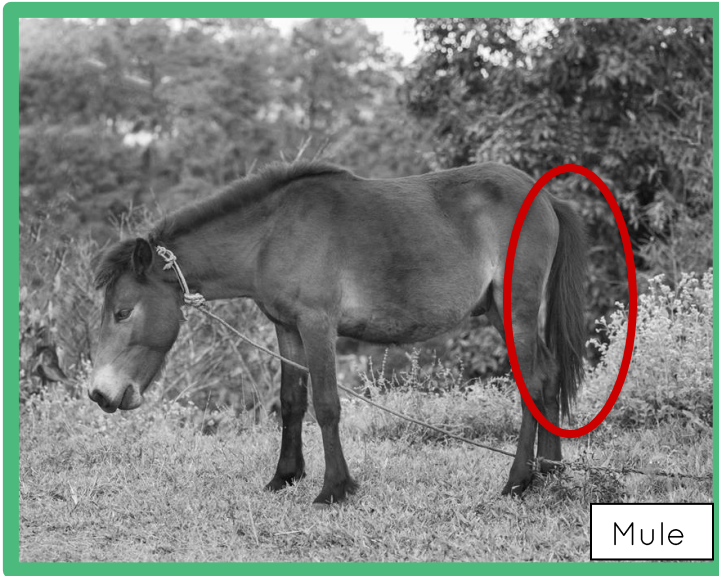
A horse is also an equine. A female horse is called a mare. A mule's mother is a mare.



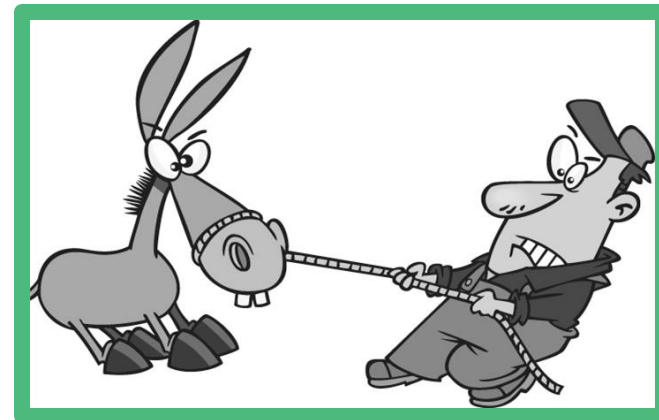
A donkey is also an equine. A male donkey is called a **jack**. A mule's father is a jack.



A **donkey** and a mule have some things in common. They are both patient and have the same ears. They do not need to drink a lot of water. That makes living in the desert easier.



A mule and a **horse** have some things in common. They are both big, fast, and strong. Mules and horses both have the same kind of tail.



Mules are very careful. They won't walk forward if they are scared. That is why people say mules are **stubborn**. Have you heard, "You are as stubborn as a mule"?



Mules are **sure-footed**. That means that they are careful about how they walk. That is why mules are good animals for people to ride at the Grand Canyon.



A **pack mule** is a mule that carries heavy loads. Mules do a lot of work for people.



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Mules pulled plows before tractors were invented. They also pulled carts for people. They still do in some places. Mules **work** hard.



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