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God's Plan – Balaam & His Donkey

“Listen & Follow God's Directions”

OPENING:

This week we will continue to follow the story of the Israelites and their journey to the Promised Land.

Our lesson focus' on the lessons one man learns about being still and listening to God's directions.

We will focus on:

- **Remembering it is best to do things God's way.**
- **It is best to be still and listen to God instead of doing things our own way.**
- **God will use whatever means necessary to get the attention of His people.**

Remind the children how God rescued His people from Israel and promised to take them to the promised land.

When the people who didn't know God saw them, they were scared and tried to hurt them.

Talk about how the people of Israel became a mighty nation as they walked around the wilderness, battling and winning fights against the others.

Show the children the picture with animals and people.

Mostly for Joshua – ask him which ones can speak words and which ones cannot.

Leaving the donkey for last. When he says the donkey cannot speak - Say, You're right! Donkeys cannot speak, but today we are going to learn about a time when God used a donkey to get a message to a man who tried to do things his own way.

Allow for students to respond to the idea of a talking donkey.

Introduce the Bible story: You can say something like:
The story of Balaam and Balaam's talking donkey is in Numbers 22.

Balaam was a prophet of the Lord.

Balak, a leader of the Moabites, asked Balaam to come and make the Israelites leave their land, but God wanted Balaam to go to the Israelites and give them a message from God.

Let's see what happens to Balaam.

Read: "A Stubborn Mule – and His Donkey" out of the **ACTION BIBLE**.

Discussion:

Ask the children if what we say and what words we use is important? Talk a bit about this.

King Balak wanted to pay Balaam to curse God's people. *To curse means to speak bad thing and wish them to be true.* Talk about how we need to be careful with our words and what we say.

To illustrate this, you could use a tube of toothpaste. Say that when we speak, our words come out of our mouth like the toothpaste leaves the tube. Have the kids squirt toothpaste onto a plate. When all the toothpaste is on the plate, ask the kids to put it back inside the tube.

Explain that when we speak; we can say good things or bad things. Sometimes we wish we could take our words back. We can say sorry but like the toothpaste it leaves a mess. So, we must be very careful with what we say.

Ask the children what they would do if someone asked them to do something wrong? Talk about how other people might ask us to do wrong things.

We must always listen to God in the first place.

Share how the king tried to pay Balaam money to do something bad.

Share how people or the devil will try to make us do something wrong by offering something we want. *Give some examples: for example, if you lie then I will give you some sweets.*

Reinforce that we should always do what the Bible says.

If anyone ask them to do something wrong, they should always speak to a parent about it.

Talk about how we must listen carefully to what God says and not only listen to what we want.

- Three times the donkey saw the Angel of the Lord and all three times Balaam beat the donkey.
- Balaam saw that there was something in his way. But he wanted to continue down the path even though the donkey would not.
- God wanted Balaam to stop and listen to his direction but instead Balaam tried to do things his own way and ended up beating his donkey, even though the donkey was trying to save him.
- Balaam was angry when his donkey refused to go where he wanted to go, but later he learned that the donkey had saved his life.

Talk about a time when you wanted to do something, and it didn't work. Share how you were disappointed or maybe angry with someone for not letting you do something, but later learned it was good that it never happened.

Share while the king wanted Balaam to curse the Israelite so bad things would happen to them, **BUT God showed that He is always in control.**

At the end, Balaam learns his lesson, obeys God, and blesses the Israelites.

Read and learn Romans 8:31.

What then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?

Ask the children what they should do when they are faced with something that they do not understand and that seems impossible.

Remind them that in the story Balaam tried to take things into his own hands when it would have been better for him to freeze(Be Still) and wait for God's guidance.

Remind the children that God told Balaam to go and do only what God wanted him to do.

We should listen for God's guidance.

Ask the children what they can do to listen for God's guidance. *Children should pray, read their Bible, attend Sunday School, etc. if they want to hear from God.*

Prayer:

Dear God,

Thank You God for protecting us and guiding our steps. Help us to obey You and be careful with our words. In Jesus' Name – AMEN.

Memory Verse:

What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Watch Video Stories:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PaRIJ_hfNoT

Balaam & His Donkey from Crossroads Kids

<https://app.pureflix.com/videos/407181862717/veggietales-moe-and-the-big-exit>

– Moe & The Big Exit

Crafts: Balaam's Talking Donkey cootie catcher

Or – Talking Donkey Puppet

Needed Items:

See attached templates

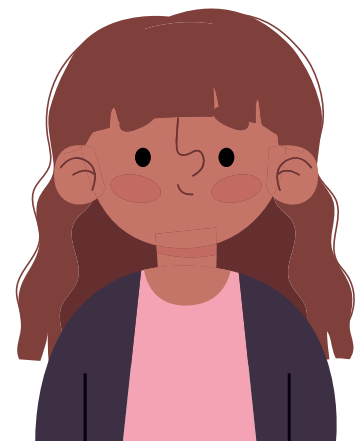
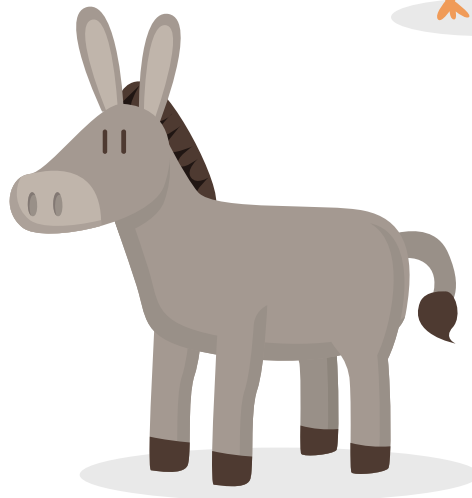
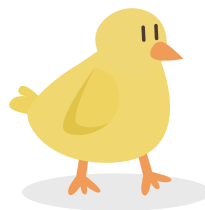
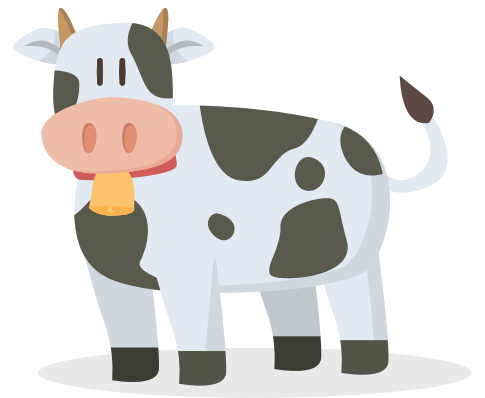
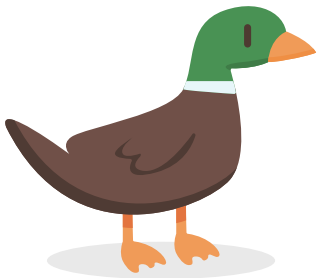
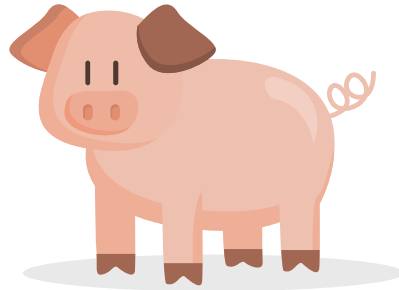


Feel free to take a picture of their art work or share how your activity went! Post it on our Facebook page or share it on GroupMe. Have a Blessed Day & Week! Until we can meet again

~ *Teacher Chrissy*

Thank you to <https://ministry-to-children.com> and www.truewaykids.com for their lessons and <https://teacherspayteachers.com> for crafts ideas. Also, www.truewaykids.com for their coloring pages and wordsearch.

Circle what can talk





BALAAM AND THE TALKING DONKEY

Look for the words listed below.

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

Angel of the Lord

Balaam

Balak

Blessing

Bow Down

Curse

Fear

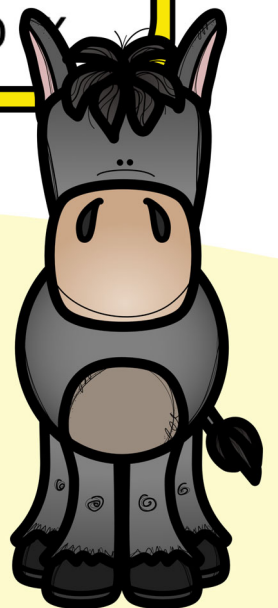
Israelites

Moab

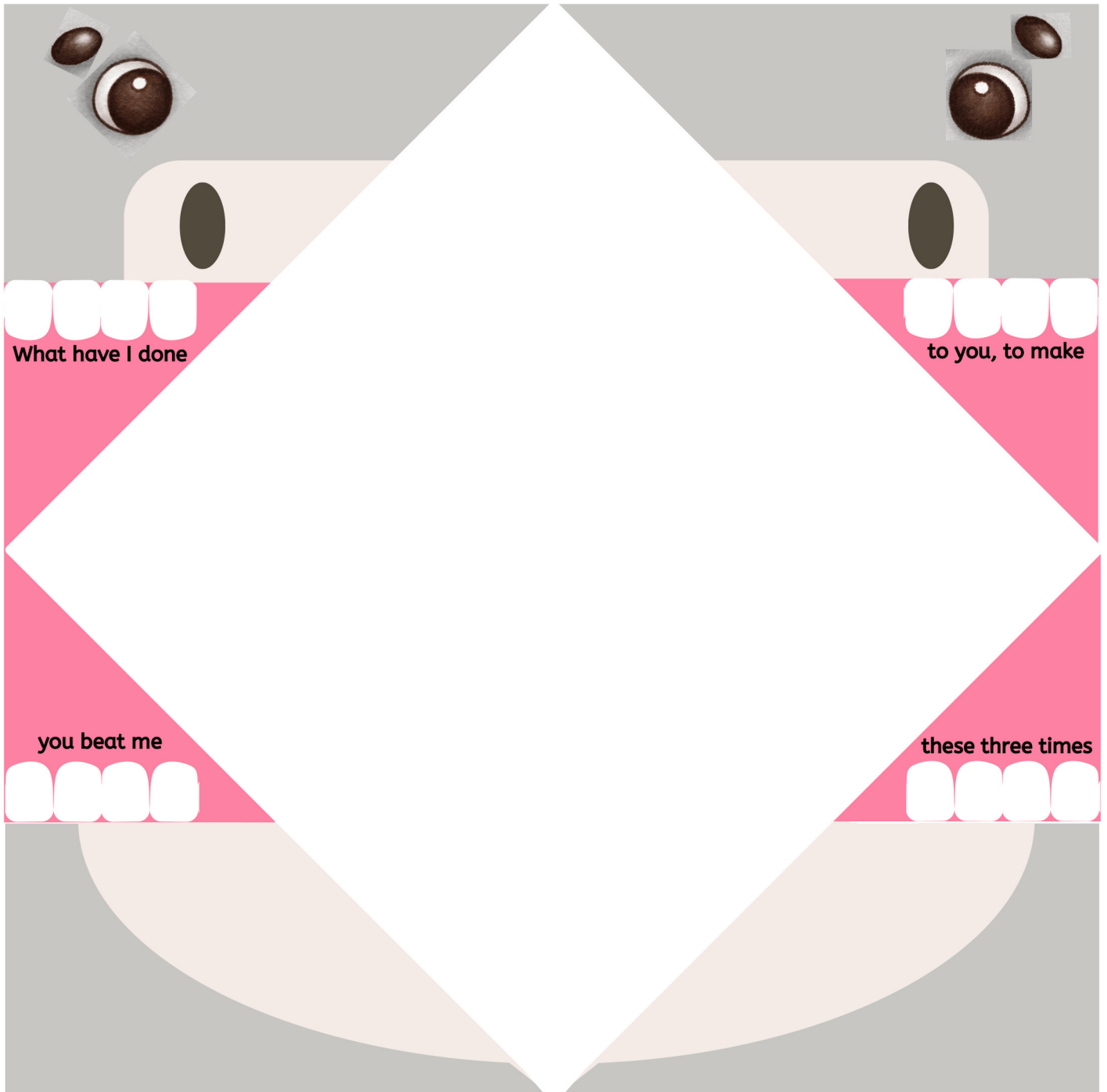
Prophet

Sword

Talking Donkey



BALAM'S TALKING DONKEY



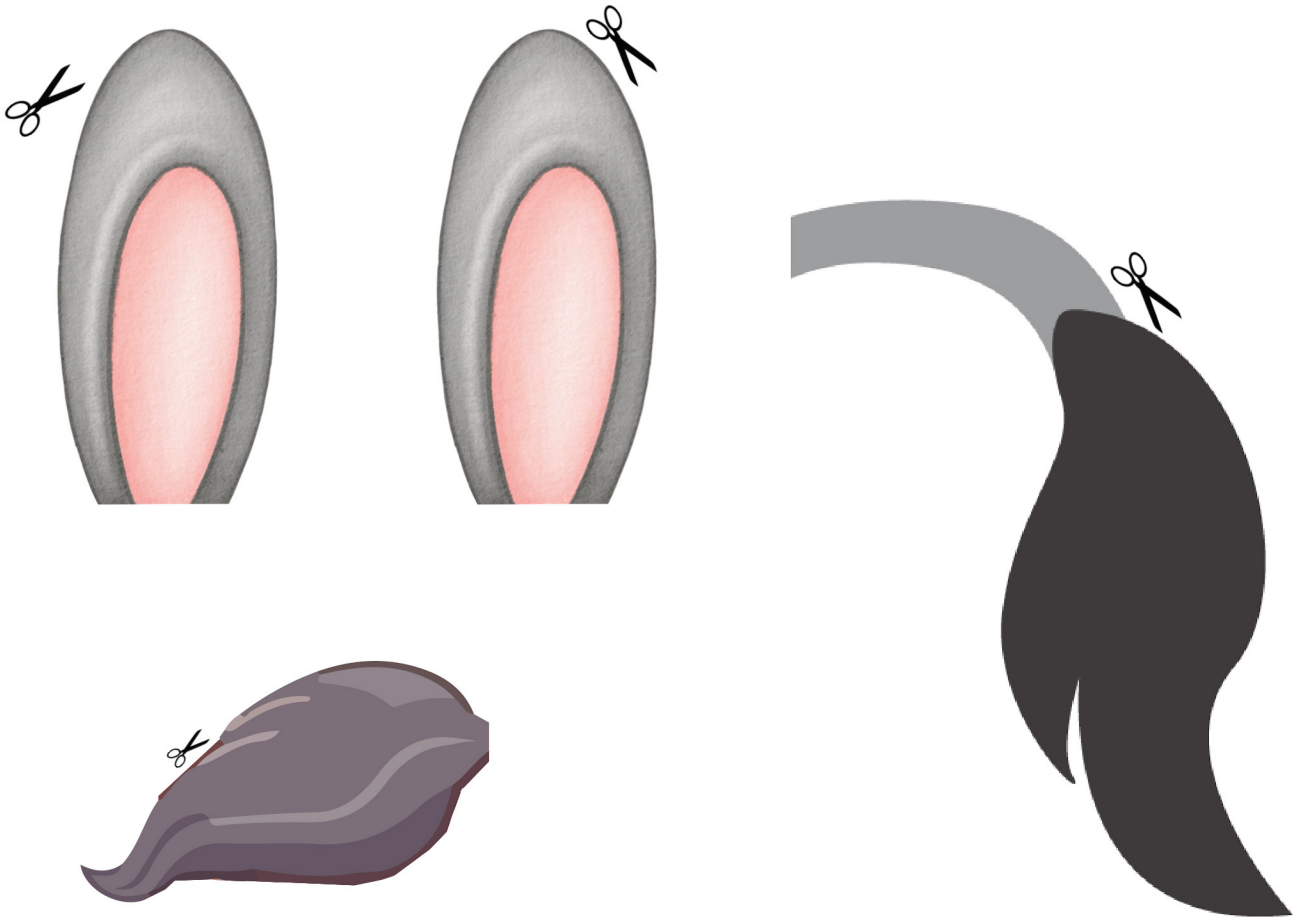
What have I done

to you, to make

you beat me

these three times

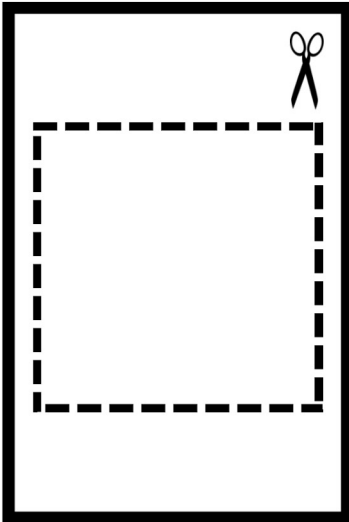
Balaam's Talking Donkey.



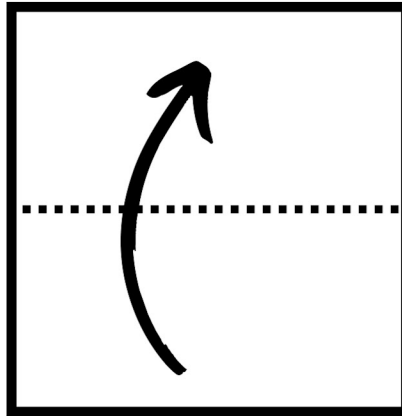
Cut Balaam's donkey's ears, tail, and hair, and then adhere them to the cootie catcher using glue.



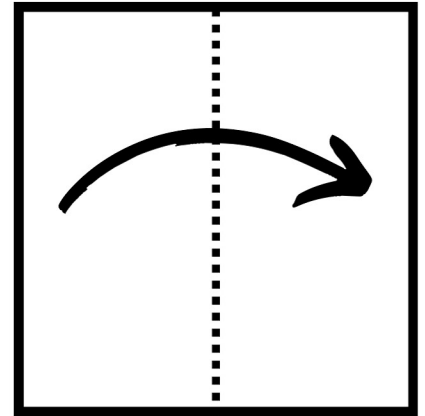
How to fold a cootie catcher



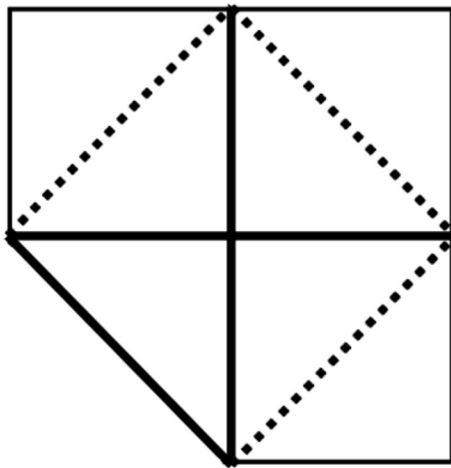
1. Cut the square



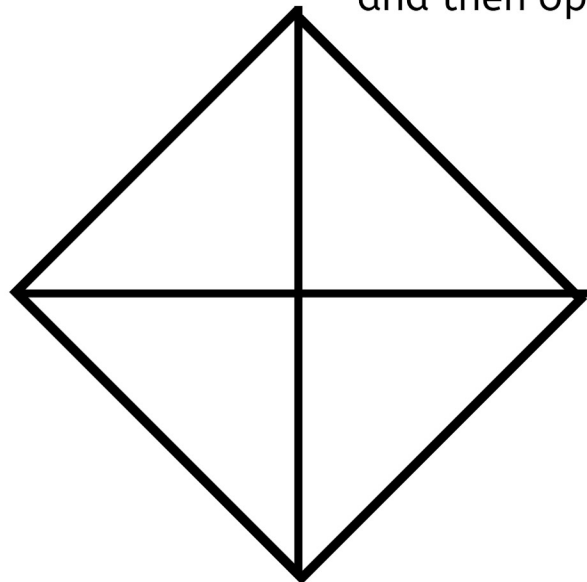
2. Design facing up
fold in half vertically
and then open



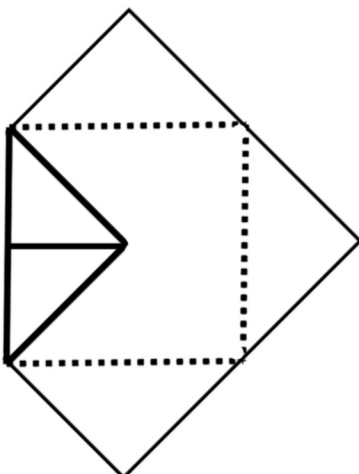
3. Design facing up
fold in half
horizontally
and then open



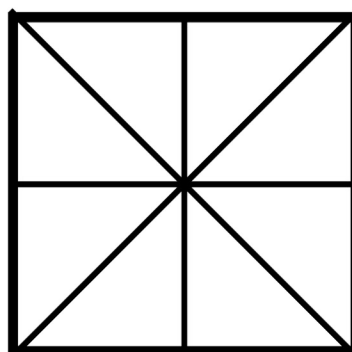
4. Design facing down
fold each corner to the
center



5. Flip paper over



6. Fold each corner
to the center

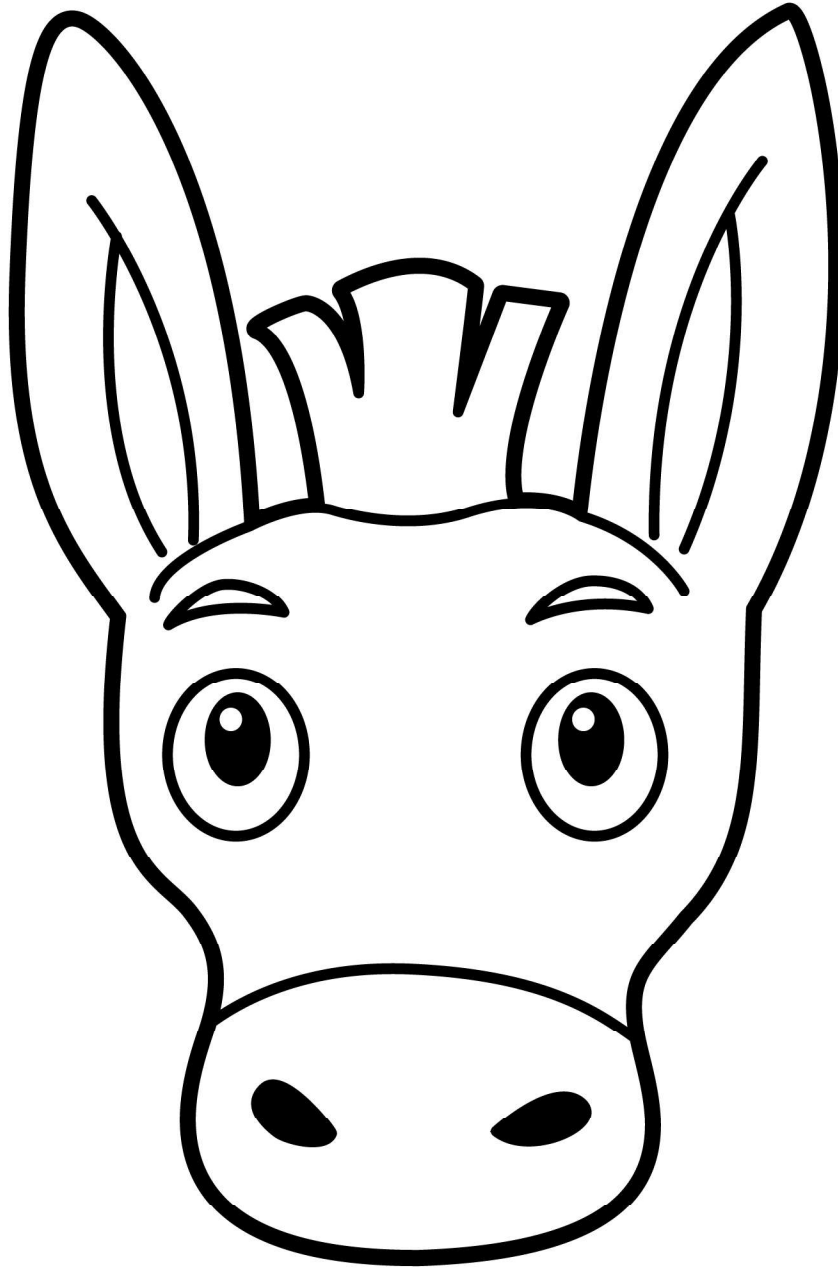


7. Fold in half just to
crease the paper then
unfold, fold in half the
other way then unfold



8. Slide fingers under
each flap, shape final
cootie catcher and
glue on the ears,
hair and tail

Donkey Puppet



Donkey Puppet

