



# Manny Kicks Long Ear Lore

## Companion Teaching Activities

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# Missouri Press Foundation

*Dedicated to Freedom for Tomorrow's World*

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Dear Educator,

Thank you for choosing to embark on this reading journey with your students! Our goal in this project is to have children reading inside their community newspapers and learning about history.

Newspapers will publish “Manny Kicks Long Ear Lore” in print and electronic editions throughout the winter and spring of 2013. If you aren’t sure if your newspaper has plans to publish the story, contact the publisher or editor.

Life’s no field of clover for Manny. Over the years, his kind has gotten stuck with a bad reputation. They’re believed to be lazy, ugly and dumb. Manny has had it up to his long ears with this pile of mule hooey – and in this new eight-week serial story, he’s going to set the record straight.

The questions in this guide are aligned to the Common Core Standards. The questions are appropriate for most elementary students and can be adapted to other grade levels. The Links to More Learnin’ section provides many opportunities to enhance the story through technology.

We hope your students enjoy our story “Manny Kicks Long Ear Lore,” and that this companion teacher guide serves as a valuable resource for expanding the learning opportunities while helping you meet your goals.

Happy Reading!

Dawn Kitchell  
Missouri Press Foundation & Association

## Chapter One: Long Ears, No Laughing Stock

1. Who is the narrator of this story?

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2. What is the purpose of this story? How do you know?

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3. Manny mentions stereotypes. What is a stereotype? Are stereotypes positive, negative, or both?

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4. Why does the song make Manny's tale droop?

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5. Create a T-chart listing the positive and negative traits of a mule.

6. Create a K-W-L chart (know, want to know, learned) that lists your knowledge of mules.

Know	Want to Know	Learned

**In the News:** Manny says you can't change a quote. Look through the newspaper to find a quote. Who said it? What does the quote add to the story?

## Chapter Two: We're Royal to the Core

1. Who is George Washington? Why is he considered the "Big Daddy" of the mule family?

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2. Manny says George Washington is "innovative." What does that mean? Give an example of George Washington's innovative ideas.

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3. Mules have royal roots. Why does Manny say that? What does it mean?

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4. What role did mules play in Westward Expansion? Why is this important?

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5. Find two examples of figurative language in this chapter.

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**In the News:** Mules made farm life easier. Use the newspaper to find an example of an invention or product that makes your life easier. What is the product? How does it make your life easier?

**Learning Standards:** CCCS. ELA-Literacy.R1.4.1, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.2, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.3, CCCRA.R.4

## Chapter Three: Tote That Barge on the Erie Canal

1. What was the mule's role in building the Erie Canal? Why is the Erie Canal important?

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2. Why did Hoggees prefer mules to horses?

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3. Compare and contrast mules to horses. Create a Venn diagram outlining the similarities and differences.

4. Using the hint "MOre on mules," what do you think chapter four will be about?

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5. List three facts you have learned about mules so far.

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**In the News:** Mules had a very important job building the Erie Canal. Newspapers are a great place to find job listings. Use the newspaper to find job listings. Which category has the most job openings? How many jobs require a high school diploma? How many require a college degree?

**Learning Standards:** CCCS. ELA-Literacy.R1.4.1, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.2, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.3

## Chapter Four: Long on Ears

1. Why did Manny use the clue “MOre on mules?”

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2. Why is Missouri called the “Show Me State?”

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3. What role did mules play in traveling the Santa Fe Trail? Who brought the mules? What did the mules carry with them?

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4. In this chapter, Manny mentions many new breeds of mules that were being developed. Give an example of one of these breeds.

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5. Mules certainly can work a variety of jobs. What types of jobs have been listed so far?

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6. Create a characterization web to describe mules’ physical traits and personality/temperament.

**In the News:** MO is an abbreviation for Missouri. Use the newspaper to find other abbreviations. List the abbreviation and the full word.

**Learning Standards:** CCCS. ELA-Literacy.R1.4.1, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.2, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.3

## Chapter Five: A Massive Effort

1. What is Borax? What are its uses?

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2. Why was it difficult for mules to transport Borax from the pit mines to the railroad spurs?

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3. What role did the muleskinner and swamper fill on the team?

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4. Two horses also were included on the team. What was their role?

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5. How does this job compare to other jobs mules have worked?

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**In the News:** The Twenty Mule Team Borax took trips that lasted 10 days. Although their trip was work, many people use the newspaper to plan trips for fun. Can you find an advertisement for a travel agency? Is there an article or a picture of a place you would like to visit?

**Learning Standards:** CCCS. ELA-Literacy.R1.4.1, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.2, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.3, CCCRA.R.2

## Chapter Six: Francis Had Star Power

1. Who was Francis? Why was she famous?

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2. Why was Molly chosen for the role of Francis?

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3. Why did Molly gain weight while working on set?

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4. How does Molly's job compare to other jobs mules have held?

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5. What other accomplishments did Molly earn?

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**In the News:** Molly became a celebrity when she was chosen for the role of Francis. What comes to your mind when you think of celebrities? Do you envision your favorite movie stars or singers? Did you know there also are local celebrities? Local celebrities are people in your community that everyone knows and respects. Look through the newspaper and find an example of a local celebrity.



## Chapter Seven: Mules Earn Their Stripes

1. Manny says, "Frivolity won't earn you respect." What does that mean?

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2. What job did the Army mules do? Why was their role in the Army so important?

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3. What community became known as "The Mule Capital of the World?" Why?

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4. Who was Hambone? Why was he famous?

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5. What does the title of this chapter mean: "Mules Earn Their Stripes?"

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**In the News:** Newspapers keep the citizens up to date on the men and women in the military. Newspapers also feature stories about groups and individuals showing their support to the military. Use the newspaper to find an example of a picture or story about the military.

## Chapter Eight: Parting Lingo on Long Ears

1. Why were mules featured in the “Guinness Book of World Records?”

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2. Describe Apollo and Anak.

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3. What contributions have mules made throughout history.

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4. Tractors have replaced mules for many of the jobs they used to do on the farm. What jobs are mules currently performing?

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5. In chapter one, you created a KWL chart. Now that you have read all eight chapters, complete the final column “Learned.”

**In the News:** Manny says his buddy Mary Anne is a “mule convert.” Convert can be used as a noun, as it is in this sentence. It also can be used as a verb. Use the newspaper to find examples of words that can be used as a noun or a verb.

**Learning Standards:** CCCS. ELA-Literacy.R1.4.1, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.2, CCCS.ELA-Literacy.R1.4.3, CCCRA.L.4

## Suggested Vocabulary Words

Directions: Find the definitions of the following vocabulary words used in the story.

### Chapter One:

Succumb

Lackluster

Prejudice

Plod

Persona

Misinformation

Lofty

Hybrid

### Chapter Two:

Rural

Statesman

Equestrian

Steed

Plantation

Revolutionize

### Chapter Three:

Lineage

Aristocratic

Feat

Autopilot

Gait

**Chapter Four:**

Bestowed

Surefooted

Heeded

Withers

**Chapter Five:**

Concoct

Squalid

Arid

Hearsay

Traversed

Nary

**Chapter Six:**

Photogenic

Girth

**Chapter Seven:**

Frivolity

Contemplate

Foliage

Terrain

**Chapter Eight:**

Wordsmith

Extolling

Convert

Docile

## Figurative Language

Figurative language is used to make writing more lively and descriptive. There are many types of figurative language.

**Idioms:** Idioms are expressions not meant to be taken literally. “Raining cats and dogs.”

**Simile:** Similes compare two items using like or as. “Your smile is as bright as the stars.”

**Metaphor:** Metaphors compare two items directly. “Your room is a pigsty.”

**Personification:** Personification gives humanlike qualities to inanimate objects. “The fall wind danced through the corn stalks.”

**Hyperbole:** Hyperbole is an extreme exaggeration. “It will take forever!”

**Alliteration:** Alliteration is the repetition of the beginning consonant sound. “Sally sells sea shells.”

Use the story, “Manny Kicks Long Ear Lore” to find examples of figurative language. Complete the chart below.

Chapter	Type of Figurative Language	Example
Chapter One	Alliteration	“patiently plodded”

**Learning Standards:** CCCRA.R.4, CCCRA.L.3, CCCRA.L5

**Chapter Summary: Complete this summary after each chapter.**

Chapter Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Characters in this chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

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List two words you learned in this chapter and their definitions:

1.

2.

Summarize the chapter using complete sentences:

Create an illustration to accompany the chapter:

Make a connection. (text to world, text to text, text to self) \_\_\_\_\_

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Make a prediction for the next chapter: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Learning Standards: CCCRA.R.2, CCCRA.W.9**