

Okapi



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Dear Parents and Teachers,
Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

—Editor



Long long ago, at the beginning of time, God created different types of creatures—animals, birds, reptiles and even man. And to each creature God gave a special quality. To birds he gave beautiful colours, to lions and elephants great strength, to man and monkeys lots of intelligence, to cheetah great speed and lots and lots of other good things to so many other creatures.

Then, he made one animal very simple and plain. It was just plain black – no beautiful colours, not tall, no horns, nothing. God forgot to give any special quality.

The animal looked around and saw a giraffe. “Make me like the giraffe,” he said. Just as God was making it tall like the giraffe the animal spotted a nice brown horse.

“Oh! No, no! I don’t want to be a giraffe,” the animal said.



“Make me brown like the brown horse.”

So God began colouring the animal’s back a deep brown when the animal spotted a zebra.

“Oh God, please, make me like the zebra... please,” cried the animal.

So God painted the back of the animal like a zebra. Now it had three special qualities. It was tall like the giraffe, had a nice deep brown colour like the brown horse and also had black and white stripes on its rear like a zebra! The animal was very happy.

“What is my name now, God?” asked the animal excitedly. God thought for a while and said, “Let’s call you Okapi.”

Okapi was very happy. He ran into the forest to show all his friends his special qualities. And to this day, you can find him roaming happily in the rainforests of Africa! ●

