

OVERVIEW

Aimed at **key stage 3** pupils.

In this activity, the class watch a video about two brothers with **Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD)** and complete a comprehension exercise based on the video.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- DMD is a genetic condition that causes muscle-wasting
- To empathise with Connor's family

CURRICULUM LINKS

- KS3: Conception, growth, development, behaviour and health can be affected by diet, drugs and disease

PREPARATION

- Print worksheets

Activity

- Watch Connor's story on the Genes Are Us website.
- Class complete worksheet

ANSWERS

1. For each member of Connor's family - tick the box showing whether they are affected, unaffected or a carrier of DMD.

	Donna	Michael	Connor	Luke	Adam
Affected by DMD			✓	✓	
Unaffected by DMD		✓			✓
Carrier of DMD	✓				

2. How does Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy affect Connor's body?

Connor describes DMD as a muscle wasting condition in which muscles get worse as you get older. He is no longer able to walk and has to use a wheelchair.

3. How old was Connor when he was diagnosed with DMD?

4 years old.

4. How do you think having DMD has affected the daily lives of:

a. Connor

Answers could include that Connor is unable to do many of the activities a normal boy of his age could do, such as playing sports or visiting friends, and needs help to do everyday things such as getting in and out of bed. However, he is still able to do lots of normal things like playing with his brother.

b. Connor's family

Answers could include that the daily routine of the family will be affected by Connor's condition, and that it will be difficult for Luke to grow up seeing his brother deteriorate, knowing that he has the same condition. The family have to work together to help each other and stay positive.

5. How do you think Connor's mother feels about her sons having DMD?

Answers could include that she probably feels unhappy about two of her children having this condition, she may perhaps feel guilty that the condition was passed down through her and is likely to worry about the future.

6. How does Connor want people to think of him?

Connor wants people to look beyond the chair and think of him as being the same as everyone else.

FURTHER INFORMATION

See **Connor's Story Teacher Factsheet** on DMD for basic information. For more detailed information, link to the patient support group: **Muscular Dystrophy Campaign: www.muscular-dystrophy.org**

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A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare

ALL ABOUT CONNOR

Connor tells you about himself in a short film. He is affected by a condition called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (shortened to DMD) which can be passed on from parent to child.

1 For each member of Connor's family - tick the box showing whether they are affected, unaffected or a carrier of DMD.

					
	Donna	Michael	Connor	Luke	Adam
Affected by DMD					
Unaffected by DMD					
Carrier of DMD					

2 How does Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy affect Connor's body?

3 How old was Connor when he was diagnosed with DMD?

4 How do you think having DMD has affected the daily lives of:

- Connor
- Connor's family

5 How do you think Connor's mother feels about two of her sons having DMD?

6 How does Connor want people to think of him?