

Name: _____



The Rabbit and the Hare



By Guy Belleranti

Did you know that jackrabbits aren't rabbits? They're actually a type of hare. Hares are close relatives of rabbits, and they belong to the same animal family.

Since they're members of the same family, there are many ways rabbits and hares are alike. Both are mammals. They both twitch their noses when using their excellent senses of smell. Both animals are nocturnal too. This means



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helpless and need lots of care from their mothers. Hare babies, called leverets, are furry and are born with their eyes open. Within just a few hours, leverets are up and hopping around.

Both rabbits and hares have large ears. However, hare ears are usually larger. Hares also have longer hind legs. Rabbits can move quickly, but the longer-legged hares move even faster. Some jackrabbits can take ten-foot leaps in bursts of forty miles an hour! Combined with their zigzag style of running, this helps them escape predators.

Except for the cottontail rabbit, rabbits spend most of the day in underground burrows. Hares spend the day above ground hidden in vegetation or in nests.

Rabbits are much more social than hares. They often live in groups. Because of their more social natures, some types of rabbits have become common pets. Hares, however, dislike being held and do not make good pets.

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1. What are a rabbit's young called? _____
What are a hare's young called? _____
2. Complete the Venn diagram to show three ways rabbits and hares are different and three ways they are the same.



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3. Why do rabbits make better pets than hares?

4. What is unique about the way jackrabbits escape from predators?

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Fill in the missing letters to create a vocabulary word from the article.
Then write the full word on the line. Be sure you spell each word correctly.

1. ___ i ___ ___ a g

clue: alternating turns to the left and the right

1. _____



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clue: animals that give birth to live young, have fur or hair, and feed their babies milk

5. ___ r e ___ a t ___ ___ s

clue: animals that hunt and eat other animals

5. _____

6. ___ o ___ ___ u r ___ a l

clue: active at night

6. _____

7. ___ u ___ ___

clue: twilight; the time of evening after sunset
and before nightfall

7. _____

8. ___ e ___ e ___ a t ___ o ___

clue: plant life

8. _____

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In the article, "The Rabbit and the Hare," you learned that rabbits make better pets than hares. On the lines below, describe why rabbits make better pets than hares. Also, explain whether or not you would want a rabbit for a pet and why.



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ANSWER KEY



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leaps. This, combined with running in a zigzag pattern, helps
them escape from predators.

ANSWER KEY



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8. v e g e t a t i o n

clue: plant life

8. vegetation