

Name: _____

The Rabbit and the Hare

by Guy Belleranti



Rabbit

Did you know that jackrabbits aren't rabbits? They're actually called hares. 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 they're most active from dusk until dawn. Their large eyes help them see in the dark.

Rabbits and hares are also alike in what they eat. They're plant-eaters, or herbivores. They like eating grass, herbs, twigs, and bark. They also love tasting things in people's gardens!

Rabbits and hares have some some big differences too. One of the biggest differences



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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.



Hare

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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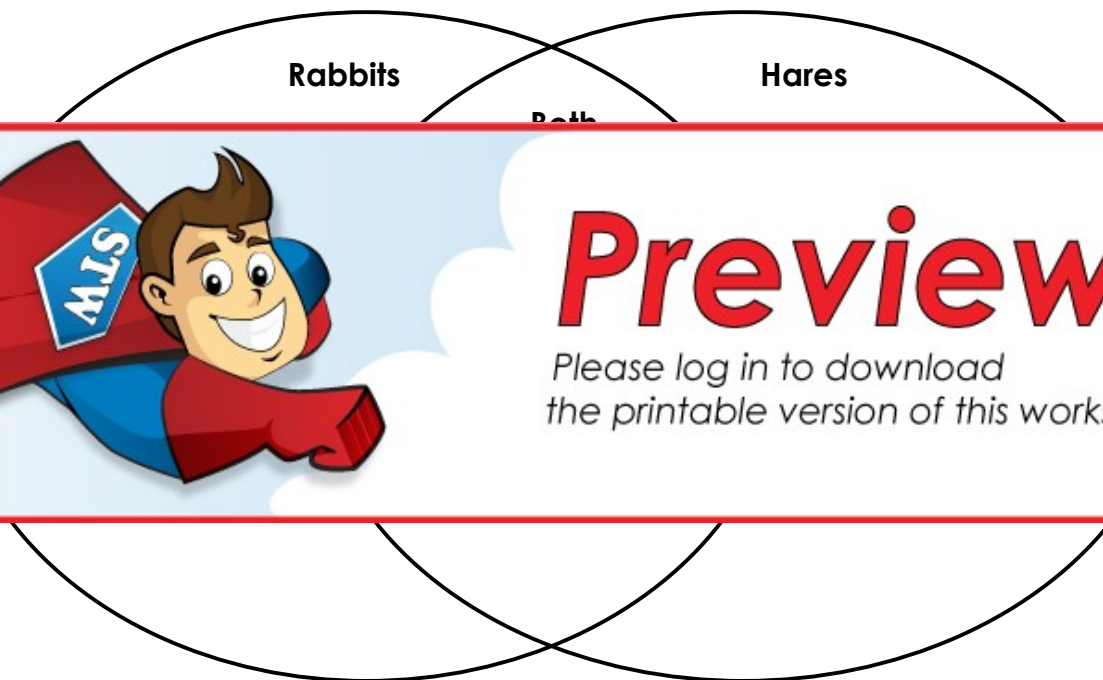


Answer the following questions based on what you read in the article.

1. What is a rabbit's young called? _____

What is a hare's young called? _____

2. Fill out the following chart to show three ways rabbits and hares are different and three ways they are the same.



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 _____
hint: alternating turns to the left and the right (4th paragraph)

2. ___ e ___ b ___ ___ ___ r e s _____
hint: animals that only eat plants in their diet (2nd paragraph)



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5. ___ r e ___ a t ___ ___ s _____
hint: animals that hunt down and eat other animals (4th paragraph)

6. ___ o ___ ___ u r ___ a l _____
hint: active at night (2nd paragraph)

7. ___ u ___ ___ _____
hint: twilight; the time of evening after sunset
and before nightfall (2nd paragraph)

8. ___ e ___ e ___ a t ___ o ___ _____
hint: plant life (5th paragraph)

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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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ANSWER KEY

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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. z i g z a g

zigzag

hint: alternating turns to the left and the right

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hint: plant life

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