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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 conces of small. Both animals are necturnal 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.

Name:



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1.	What are a rabbit's young called?	
	, 5	
	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?
	, , , de reseau mane some pose man notati
4.	What is unique about the way jackrabbits escape from predators?

Name:



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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	1.	
	clue: alternating turns to the left and the right		

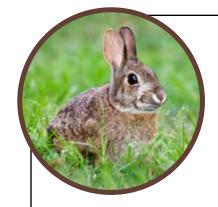


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	fur or hair, and feed their babies milk	
5.	r e a t s clue: animals that hunt and eat other animals	5
6.	o u ra l clue: active at night	6
7.	u clue: twilight; the time of evening after sunset and before nightfall	7
8.	e e a t o clue: plant life	8

Name: _____



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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



The Rabbit and the Hare



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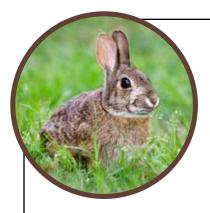
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leaps. This, combined with running in a zigzag pattern, helps

them escape from predators.

ANSWER KEY



The Rabbit and the Hare



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8. <u>v</u>e<u>g</u>e<u>t</u>at<u>i</u>o<u>n</u>

clue: plant life

8. vegetation