

Name: _____

The Rabbit and the Hare

by Guy Belleranti



Rabbit

Did you know that jackrabbits aren't rabbits? They're actually called hares.

What are hares? These critters are close relatives of rabbits, and they belong to the same animal family.

Since they are members of the same family, there are many ways rabbits and hares are alike. First, both are mammals that twitch their noses when using their excellent senses of smell. Secondly, both are nocturnal, meaning they are most active from dusk until dawn.



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their eyes are open. Within just a few hours leverets are up and hopping around, exploring.

While both rabbits and hares have large ears, 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 accomplish 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 simple nests.

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



Hare

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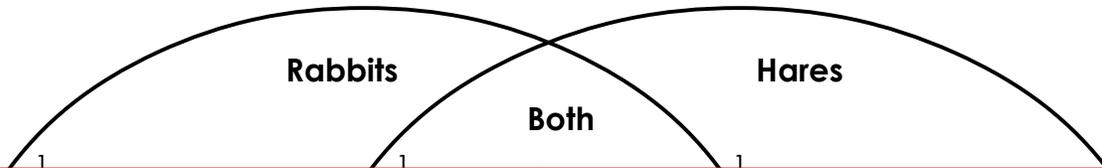


Answer the following questions based on what you read in the article.

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.



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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 _____
hint: alternating turns to the left and the right



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4. ___ a ___ ___ a ___ s _____
hint: animals that give birth to live young, have fur or hair, and feed their babies milk

5. ___ r e ___ a t ___ ___ s _____
hint: animals that hunt down and eat other animals

6. ___ o ___ ___ u r ___ a l _____
hint: active at night

7. ___ u ___ ___ _____
hint: twilight; the time of evening after sunset and before nightfall

8. ___ e ___ e ___ a t ___ o ___ _____
hint: plant life

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

1. What is a rabbit's young called? **kits or kittens**

What is a hare's young called? **leverets**

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ANSWER KEY

The Rabbit and the Hare

by Guy Belleranti



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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