The Rabbit and the Hare

by Guy Belleranti

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.

Rabbit

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
The Rabbit and the Hare
by Guy Belleranti

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rabbits</th>
<th>Both</th>
<th>Hares</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
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</tbody>
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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

2. ___ e ___ b ___ ___ r ___ e ___ s

3. ___ u ___ ___ o ___ s
   hint: tunnels or holes where small animals live

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
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.
The Rabbit and the Hare
by Guy Belleranti

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**

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

   **Accept any of the following similarities:** mammals; excellent sense of smell; nocturnal; herbivores
   **Accept any of the following differences:** rabbit babies are born with no fur and eyes closed, while hare babies are born with fur and eyes open; rabbits have large ears, while hares have larger ears; rabbits run fast, while hares can run faster; rabbits live in burrows, while hares live above ground; rabbits are social, while hares are not social

3. Why do rabbits make better pets than hares? **Rabbits make better pets than hares because they are more social.**

4. What is unique about the way jackrabbits escape from predators? **Jackrabbits can run up to forty miles per hour with ten-foot leaps. This, combined with running in a zigzag pattern, helps them escape from predators.**
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

2. h e r b i v o r e s  
   **herbivores**
   hint: animals that only eat plants in their diet

3. b u r r o w s  
   **burrows**
   hint: tunnels or holes where small animals live

4. m a m m a l s  
   **mammals**
   hint: animals that give birth to live young, have fur or hair, and feed their babies milk

5. p r e d a t o r s  
   **predators**
   hint: animals that hunt down and eat other animals

6. n o c t u r n a l  
   **nocturnal**
   hint: active at night

7. d u s k  
   **dusk**
   hint: twilight; the time of evening after sunset and before nightfall

8. v e g e t a t i o n  
   **vegetation**
   hint: plant life

hint: plant life