

The Rabbit and the Hare

by Guy Bellera!!!

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.

Their large eyes help them see in the dark. Third, rabbits and hares are alike in what they eat. They are plant-eaters, or herbivores. They like eating grass, herbs, twigs, and bark. They also love tasting things in people's gardens!

Now, let's look at some ways rabbits and hares are different.

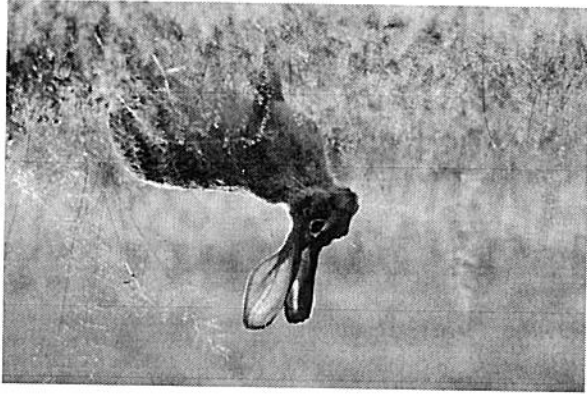
One of the biggest differences between rabbits and hares is their babies. Rabbit babies (called kits or kittens) have no fur and are born with their eyes closed. This means they're helpless and need lots of care from their mothers. Hare babies (called leverets) are furry and their eyes are open. Within 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.

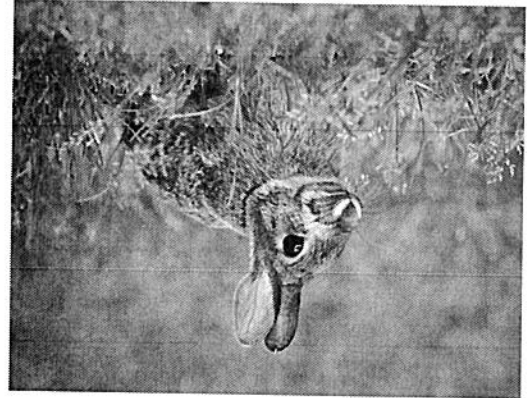
Except for the cottontail rabbit, rabbits spend most of the day in underground burrows. Hares spend the day above ground hidden in vegetation or in simple nests.

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



Rabbit

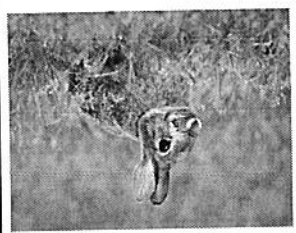


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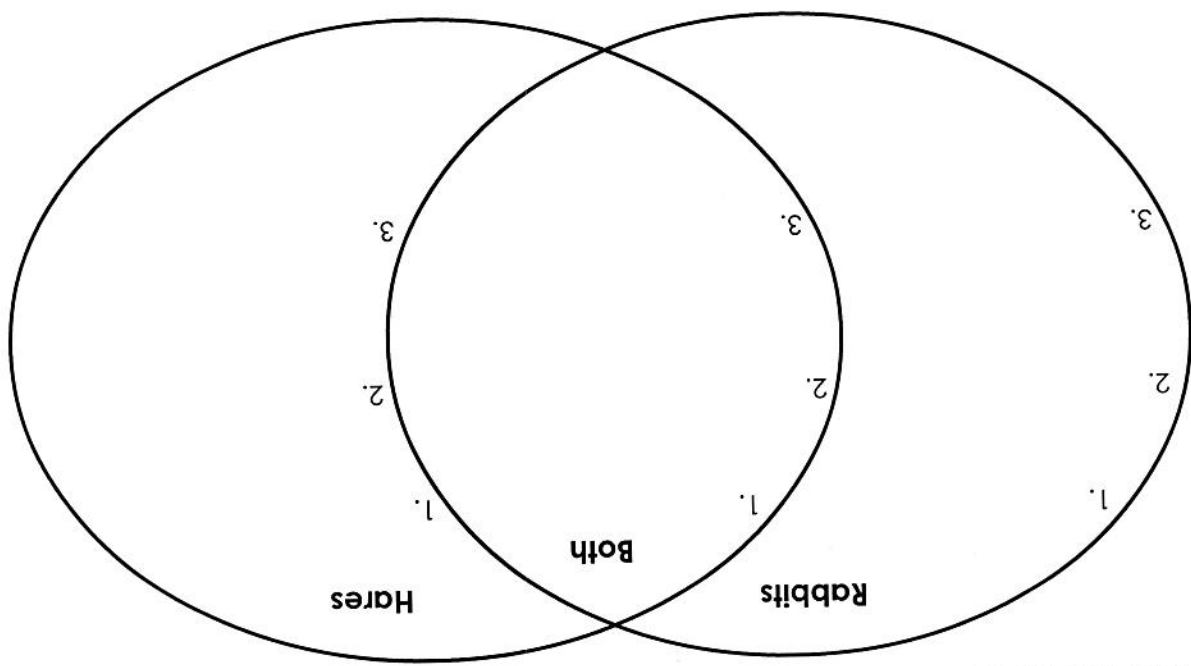
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Answer the following questions based on what you read in the article.



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?

2.	_____ e _____ b _____ r _____ e _____ s _____	hint: animals that only eat plants in their diet	_____
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	_____

Figurative Language

Use figurative language to make your writing more interesting.

Simile

A simile uses the words "like" or "as" to compare one object or idea with another.

Example: *He sleeps like a log.*

Metaphor

The metaphor states a fact or draws a verbal picture by the use of comparison.

Example: *She has the heart of a lion.*

Personification

A figure of speech in which human characteristics are given to an animal or object.

Example: *The trees danced in the wind.*

Read each sentence below. Name the type of figurative language shown in the words in bold print. Then write what you think each phrase means.

I'm **as blind as a bat** in the dark.

The argument was **a thunderstorm of words**.

The sweater was **hugging him tightly**.

The house was **as sturdy as a rock**.

The waves **ran towards the shore**.

The snowflakes were **jewels in the sky**.



Mixed Practice!

Similes and Metaphors

Read the sentence and circle the 2 words being compared in each sentence. Determine whether each sentence is a *simile* or a *metaphor*, and write down the meaning based on the context of the sentence.

Example: She walks like a duck.

Meaning: The girl walks funny. (simile)

1. Steven sings like a nightingale.

Meaning:

2. The candle is a beacon of sunshine.

Meaning:

3. The moon is a lantern in the sky.

Meaning:

4. Kirsten sleeps like a log.

Meaning:

5. Gretchen is a fish when she swims.

Meaning:

6. Phillip is lightning when he runs a race.

Meaning:

7. The bunny's fur is a blanket of warmth.

Meaning:

8. Anne's voice is velvet.

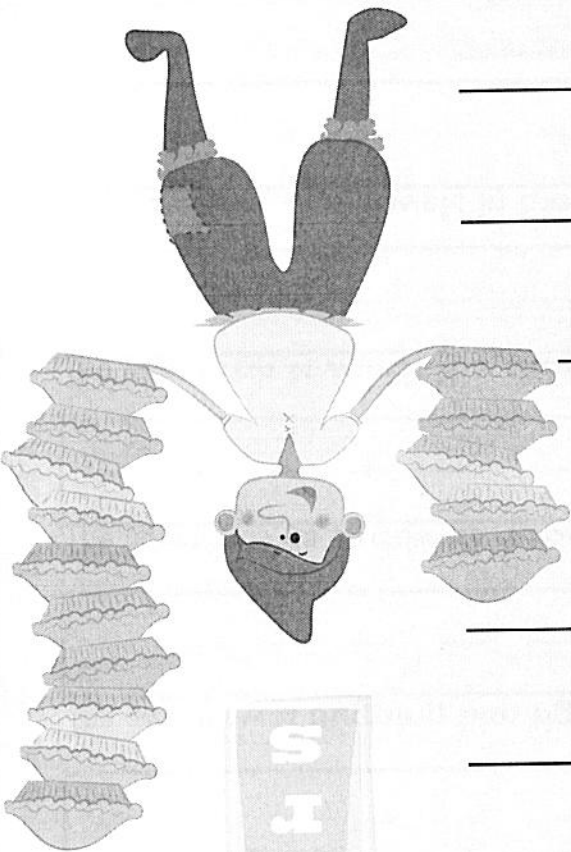
Meaning:

9. Peter is as sweet as pie.

Meaning:

10. Chris is like a computer when he does his math.

Meaning:



Name: _____

Date: _____

Making Sense of Figurative Language 1

What is Figurative Language?
*a tool that authors use to help readers visualize what is happening in a story or poem. The words and phrases mean something different than they normally do.

Example: He ran as fast as a cheetah. (This compares a boy and a cheetah. It is saying that they both run fast. However, a cheetah runs about 70mph. That is not humanly possible for a boy to do!)

Directions: Read the passages and answer the questions that follow.

1. On Friday afternoon, the doorbell rang. Ricky ran to the front door to see if his package arrived. He was so excited that he flew open the door. He didn't even think about his dog, Shadow. Shadow darted out the door. He was down the street in a blink of the eye. Luckily, the mailman noticed the dog as it sprinted past him. The mailman chased after Shadow, grabbed his collar, and walked him back to Ricky. Phew, that was close!

1. What is the meaning of the underlined words?

2. Garrett and Jeffrey took turns at the hoop practicing their free throws. Usually Garrett sunk his free throw shots with no trouble, but something was off today. He had not made a single shot. Jeffrey was on fire, though! He made every single free throw shot from the line. Coach McElroy noticed and came to talk to Garrett. "If you adjust your feet," he said, "your shot will go straight." To Garrett's surprise, he made the rest of his free throws!

2. What is the meaning of the underlined words?

3. Maci knew she had earned some good grades and some bad grades. Even though Maci knew her parents would be disappointed, she always followed the rules. She would give them the report card when she got home. When she arrived home, she realized that the report card was not in her binder when she got off the bus. She must have lost it somewhere! Instead of panicking, she made a plan. Maci decided to talk to her teacher about it the next day. Her teacher smiled from ear to ear. She thanked her for being responsible. She printed Maci a new report card to take home.

3. What is the meaning of the underlined words?

4. Sebastian was forgetful. A few times a week, he forgot to bring his lunch to school. His mom would have to bring his lunch up to school. He often forgot his homework at home, too. It was no surprise when Sebastian went home and told his mom that he lost his favorite red sweatshirt. Normally, it did not bother him when he forgot things, but this time it did. He loved the sweatshirt. Sebastian's mom brought him up to the school so he could look around outside. He searched high and low for the sweatshirt. When he found it, he realized it was dirtier than a pig in mud.

4. What is the meaning of the underlined words?

5. What is the meaning of the underlined words?

1. The horse is black.

2. The knight is brave.

3. The dog is brown.

4. The clouds are fluffy.

5. Find two dogs.