

TOPIC: Bunnies

Rabbits or Bunnies:

Do you know what the difference is between a Rabbit and a Bunny?

Rabbits and bunnies are the same thing! They are small mammals that mostly live in the wild, but some groups of bunnies are specifically bred and domesticated as house pets. Bunnies are social animals and like to live in groups, or colonies, so even as house pets, bunnies are a big responsibility and need a lot of attention. Their colonies can get big very quickly because each rabbit litter varies between 4 and 12 babies and can have up to three litters a year!

They are herbivores, so they only eat plants, such as grasses, clover, broccoli, fruits, and seeds.

Since rabbits are herbivores, what is something that they can't eat? They go out at night to look for food to avoid predators. Rabbits have eyes that can rotate 360 degrees, which means they can see behind them without turning their heads! If they see a predator, they use their rapid movements to flee. Jackrabbits can speed up to 45 miles an hour!

Wild rabbits often live in any type of temperature because they dig their homes with tunnels underground. The tunnel systems are called warrens and have specific spots for sleeping and nesting. Domesticated bunnies need a regulated environment to survive. While wild rabbits usually live 8 years, domesticated bunnies may live up to 10 or 12 years with proper care.

How Bunnies Look Like:

Have you ever seen a live bunny? What do you notice in the following picture?

- About the size of a cat
- Fluffy Tails
- Whiskers
- Long Ears

Bunnies can come vary in size and fur color.
See for yourself!



Which of these bunnies is your favorite bunny? Why?



Rabbits on the Farm:

Rabbits are mammals that may be found on farms, but they are not useful to farmers. Although they look cute and innocent, bunnies can be a distraction to farmer production. Since bunnies eat the plants that are grown on farms, farmers see the bunnies as pests. They also dig their homes underground, so they may disturb planting and seeding patterns. Lastly, their ability to rapidly reproduce is another reason why farmers don't like to have rabbits on their land.

Rabbits or Hares:

Do you know what the difference is between a Rabbit and a Hare?

There are a few differences between a rabbit and a hare:



Rabbit	Hare
Born naked, blind, and helpless	Born with fur, eyes open, and ready to hop around
Slower at running because of smaller legs	Longer legs, which makes them faster
Do not change colors, but do change their coats.	Fur may change color as seasons change for camouflage
Live in warrens and underground dens	Live above ground and may nest in hollow logs
Always live colonies of at least 20 rabbits or more	Generally solitary, but may gather during the winter

Recreate this chart in a VENN Diagram attached and point out some of their similarities!

Vocabulary:

- **Doe:** a female rabbit
- **Buck:** a male rabbit
- **Kitten (kit):** a baby rabbit
- **Herbivores:** an animal that only eats plants
- **Domesticated:** tamed and kept as a pet or on a farm
- **Wild:** living out in nature, not under human care
- **Colonies:** a large group of bunnies
- **Warrens:** the tunnel system that rabbits dig underground for shelter



Rabbit Reads to Download from the Loudoun County Public Library

- ***The Tales of the Flopsy Bunnies*** by Beatrix Potter: <https://bit.ly/2VnU6vu>
- ***Peter Rabbit & Other Tales*** by Beatrix Potter: <https://bit.ly/34AcGEw>
- ***I am a Bunny*** by Ole Risom: <https://bit.ly/34JmZXj>

Bunny Craft

Materials:

- Liquid Glue and Scissors
- Pipe cleaners or Q-tips
- Paper Plate
- Cotton Balls – enough to cover the paper plate
- Construction Paper
- 2 Googly Eyes
- Pompom (opt.)

Instructions:

1. Start by applying glue to the underside of the paper plate and setting the cotton balls atop the glue to dry.
2. While the glue dries, cut out two bunny ears out of the construction paper color of your choice. You may choose to line the edges of the ears with more cotton balls.
3. Use the pipe cleaners or Q-tips as whiskers. Glue 6 whiskers – 3 on each side. Your rabbit may have more than six whiskers if you so choose.
4. With another pipe cleaner, make a 'W' and glue that underneath the whiskers as the mouth.
5. Add the googly eyes above the whiskers.
6. Give a name to your new pet rabbit!



VENN Diagram

