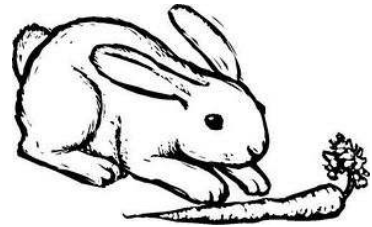


Grades: primary

The Farm at Fairplex Rabbits

Before your visit:

- Brainstorm with children about their knowledge of rabbits. List the information from your discussion on a circle map. Be sure that you cover the following:
 1. Rabbits are mammals. There are over 45 different breeds of rabbits.
 2. A male rabbit is called a buck, and a female is called a doe. A baby rabbit is called a kitten or kit. An adult female rabbit can produce 20 – 40 babies a year. The baby rabbits stay with their mom for only about two weeks.
 3. Rabbits are herbivores. They eat grass, clover, wild flowers, vegetables, and tree bark.
 4. Rabbits need to drink lots of fresh water. A four pound rabbit will drink as much water as a 20 pound dog.
 5. Cottontail rabbits live in above ground nests. All other wild rabbits live in underground burrows. A group of burrows is called a warren.
 6. Wild rabbits can live from 8 – 10 years. Pet rabbits have been known to live for 16 years.
 7. Rabbits usually weigh between two and eleven pounds.
 8. Rabbits have long ears that can turn in any direction. Their ears are about four inches long. These sensitive ears also help in regulating their temperature.
 9. A rabbit has 28 teeth which keep growing throughout its life. Rabbits love to chew.
 10. Natural predators of a rabbit include: coyotes, foxes, wolves, hawks, owls and eagles.
 11. Rabbits can over-heat easily. The only place they sweat is on the pads of their feet.
 12. Some people eat rabbits for food. Some people keep rabbits for pets.
 13. Rabbits are most active at sunset and dawn. During the day, they hide.
 14. Rabbits are different from hares. Hares are bigger with longer ears and longer hind legs. They live in above ground nests.
- Show pictures of different types of rabbits from a book or the internet. Discuss the similarities and differences of the rabbits shown in the pictures. You may also want to show the children one of the many YouTube videos that feature these animals hopping and jumping so that the students will see how quickly they can move.
- Place this poem in a pocket chart and read it daily so that the children can memorize it.



Here's a Rabbit

Oh, here's a fluffy rabbit
With two ears so very long
See him hop, hop, hop about
On legs so very strong.
He nibbles, nibbles carrots

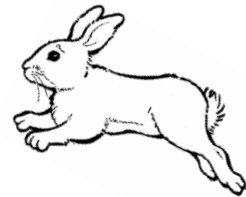
For his dinner every day
And as soon as he has had enough
He hops, hops, hops away.

During your visit:

- Observe the many different types of rabbits displayed at *The Farm* exhibit. Which one is your favorite? Would you like to have a rabbit as a pet? Why or why not? Watch your favorite rabbit for a while, and try to see if he/she displays the characteristics of a happy, relaxed rabbit
 1. The rabbit is lying down in a relaxed manner with legs tucked under the body or with front paws pointing forward and back legs either outstretched to the side or behind the body.
 2. The bunny's ears are close together, pointing outward.
 3. The eyes may be partially closed.
- If you get to watch a rabbit eat, try to notice the teeth. Are the teeth sharp or flat? Does that give you a clue about if rabbits are herbivores or carnivores? What do rabbits like to eat?
- If you have a cell phone or camera, take a picture of your favorite rabbit. Why is this one your favorite? Think about what kind of fur it has. Is it big or small? What do its eyes look like?

After your visit:

- Use the photographs you took of the rabbits at *The Farm* to draw a rabbit. Try to color the rabbit to match the one you saw. (If children have trouble drawing from a photograph, you may want to first do a directed drawing lesson of a rabbit. There are many available on YouTube.)
- Play "Rabbit Relays" during P.E. Divide the children into groups and have them hop, jump and run like rabbits.
- Complete the tree map to show what you have learned about rabbits. Use that information to write about rabbits. Be sure to include an introduction and conclusion sentence.



Books About Rabbits

Rabbit and Me: All You Need to Know About Your Pet Rabbit by Emi Lau

Raising Rabbits (Let's Talk About Pets) by David Armentrout

The Rabbit Book: A Guide to Raising and Showing Rabbits by Samantha Johnson

The Tale of Peter Rabbit by Beatrix Potter

The Velveteen Rabbit by Margery Williams

Your Rabbit: A Kid's Guide to Raising and Showing Rabbits by Nancy Searle

Name _____

primary tree map

rabbits

can

have

are

