Name:

Reading Comprehension
Compare and Contrast

Read the passage below. Then write ideas from the passage in the Venn Diagram to compare the rabbit and the hare.

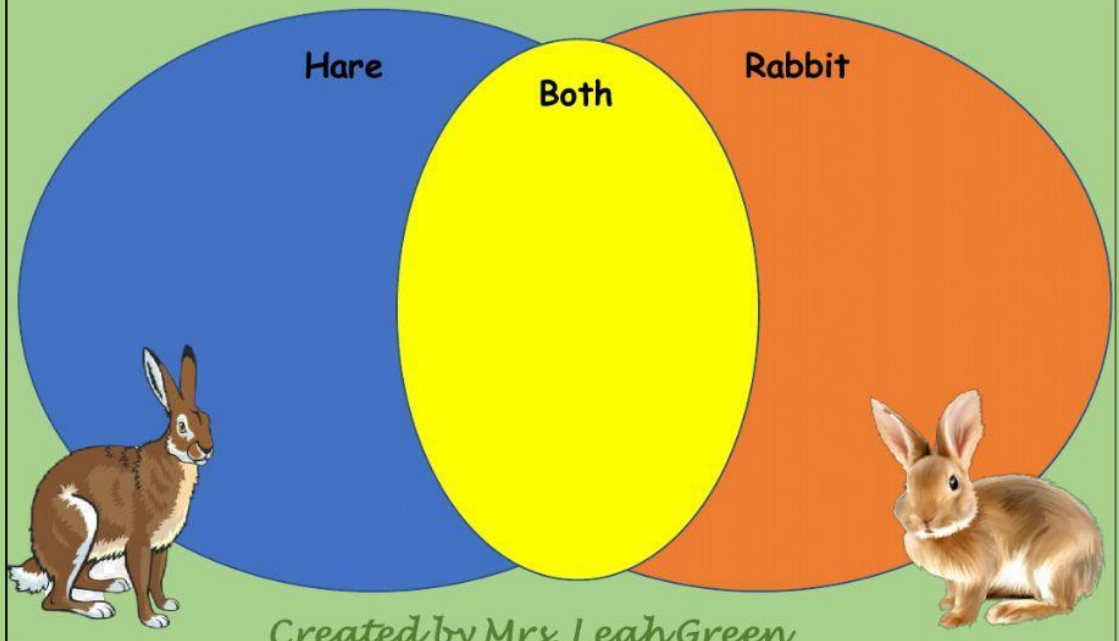
Have you ever watched a nature show on television and not known the names of some animals? There are millions of different animals, and many of them have their own unique names. Sometimes, people use *hare* and *rabbit* interchangeably, and most of the time, it doesn't make a big difference. Both animals are members of the Leporidae family, so they are already relatives. Plus, they share a lot of the same features. But it is important in scientific and technical contexts to know the difference because, after all, these are different animal groups.

A hare is a type of long-eared mammal, usually found in grassland or open woodland. The hare species can be found across the globe, and they are native to Africa, Eurasia, North America, and the Japanese archipelago. Hares are larger than rabbits, with larger ears and larger hind feet.

A rabbit is another type of long-eared mammal, usually smaller than a hare. More than half of the world's rabbit population can be found in North America, but they are also native to southwestern Europe, Southeast Asia, some islands of Japan, and in parts of Africa and South America.

Baby hares called a leveret are born with hair and open eyes. Newborn rabbits called kittens or kits, however, are born undeveloped. They have no fur and born with closed eyes. Depending on the season, the fur on a hare can change color, too. Certain species of hares will change from white fur in the winter to reddish-brown fur in the spring and summer.

The two animals also have different nests. A hare spends its life completely above ground, while rabbits make burrows underground, which is where they have their babies. Unlike the hare, which lives solitarily or in pairs, the rabbit lives in groups, making it a much more social creature. Both animals, however, will hunt and play from dusk until dawn. When in danger, a hare will always leap rapidly away while a rabbit's first attempt is to hide by remaining very still.



Created by Mrs. LeahGreen

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