

## Wild Rabbits and Hares



### Cottontail Rabbit that Has Damaged Bushes

#### Science

- How can you tell if a rabbit or some other animal has bitten off a leaf, twig or peeled bark on a garden plant, bush or tree? What kinds of markings are left there?
- Examine rabbit tracks and pictures of tracks in books. How do they differ from tracks of other animals? What paths do they follow?
- Look at rabbit scat. What do rabbits eat?
- Have puppets discuss the likenesses and differences between rabbits and hares.
- Use maps or let puppets tell about geographic distribution of various types of rabbits.
- Talk about body structure and what various parts allow the rabbit to do. Learn about their keen sense of smell and their strong legs.
- Discuss enemies such as birds of prey, wolves, dogs, coyotes and people.
- Talk about the typical day and night of a rabbit. Discuss activities such as eating, sleeping, play and nest building. Are they nocturnal, diurnal or crepuscular?
- Let rabbit puppets talk about why farmers and gardeners may not like them. Eating of crops and gnawing of bushes and trees can be discussed.
- Learn about the disease tularemia that can infect people. Talk about the fleas or other pests that may be a problem for the rabbit.
- View the video about rabbits on this web site. What questions result from watching the video?
- Talk about their life span, reproduction, and place in the ecosystem.
- Learn about sounds made by rabbits.

- Learn about the different kinds of wild and domestic rabbits. Some raise rabbits as a 4-H project. How do people care for domestic rabbits? Interview someone who raises rabbits. What resources did they use to learn about their care? Why do people raise rabbits?

### **Literature**

- Discuss the place of rabbits in myths, folk tales and religions. Let puppets take parts in stories, such as the “Hare and the Tortoise,” “Bre’r Rabbit,” and “Peter Rabbit.” If appropriate, talk about positive and negative views of belief in the Easter bunny.

### **Social Studies**

- Do research to learn the historical and present-day value of rabbits as a source of food. Have puppets representing rabbits or people share what is learned.
- Talk about their value in providing food, clothing and enjoyment for people.

### **Art**

- Examine the coloration of rabbits and how it helps to camouflage them.
- Examine works of art that include rabbits. Find works of art about rabbits done by Taylor County artist, Cheryl Plautz.

### **Music**

- Learn songs about rabbits.