

Rabbit



Rabbits are small mammals with fluffy, short tails, whiskers and distinctive long ears. There are more than **30** species around the world, **16** different species of wild rabbits in the United States, with the most common being the eastern cottontail. Wild rabbits such as this have short life spans due to the fact that they are subject to being killed by many predators, but they keep their populations up by having as many as five litters of young each year.

While originally from Europe and Africa, rabbits are now found all over the world. They occupy most of the world's land masses, except for southern South America, the West Indies, Madagascar, and most islands southeast of Asia.

Diet

Rabbits are herbivores. This means that they have a plant-based diet and do not eat meat. Their diets include grasses, clover and some cruciferous plants, such as broccoli and Brussels sprouts. They are opportunistic feeders and also eat fruits, seeds, roots, buds, and tree bark.

Rabbits' nests are generally well hidden and can turn up anywhere. The most common places are near bushes, trees, and tall grass. A rabbit's nest can be identified by its common construction of grass and fur.



Habitat

Wild rabbits create their own homes by tunneling into the ground. These tunnel systems are called warrens and include rooms for nesting and sleeping. They also have multiple entrances for quick escape. Warrens can be as deep as 9 feet underground.