

National curriculum objectives



- working scientifically: performing simple tests
- identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other

Resources (you will need):

LOA 3 PDF (Hare), shoe boxes, egg boxes, access to natural materials e.g. leaves, grass, sticks etc, a watering can.

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60 MINUTE ACTIVITY

Show learners LOA 3 PDF (Hare). Explain that although this may look like a rabbit, it is actually a hare. Hares are bigger than rabbits, with longer ears and back legs. Unlike rabbits, hares do not live underground, their habitats are above ground in simple nests. When it rains, hares find shelter in their nests or surrounding environment. Give each pair a shoe box with an empty egg box inside. The empty egg box is the hare. The pdf photo of a hare could be printed and stuck to each egg box to make it more visual.

Now challenge learners to investigate what materials, in nature, could be used to make the best waterproof roof for their hare. Guide the class through the following steps:

- discuss what materials could be used to create the roof (leaves, sticks, mud, grass)
- explore the outdoor environment and find materials
- have a discussion about what else would be useful to think about (angle for the water to run off, size of materials, if the materials are living or dead).

Once learners have completed their shelters, sprinkle water from a watering can over them one by one, making sure it is the same amount of water for each shelter. Egg boxes are great for seeing how wet it gets as the cardboard absorbs the water and changes colour.

Class reflection

This shows how important it is for hares to have a shelter. By protecting hares habitats, like hay meadows and hedgerow, we can help to protect hares. Why else are hedgerows important? (they keep animals inside fields, animals such as foxes and badgers use hedges as 'roadways' for getting from one wood to another (wild animals do not like crossing open fields), they are a habitat for a wide variety of animals such as hedgehogs, nesting birds, mice, voles and plants).

Have time for a literacy link?

Create short stories about the hare hopping around when the rain starts, needing to find shelter. Is the shelter strong and waterproof or weak and leaking? Is the hare warm, dry and happy or soggy and cold? Verbally tell these stories or storyboard them. Add sentences underneath or speech/thought bubbles.

Philosopher question

Do animals get cold?

