



Year of the Rabbit



RABBIT - LEVER HOP

Rabbits are small, social mammals with long ears, soft fur, and fluffy tails. Domesticated rabbits are kept as pets, but rabbits are also found in the wild. Rabbits mostly eat grasses, but are also known for eating their own poo! This allows them to digest nutrients they didn't digest the first time around! One rabbit can have 50 offspring in a single year!

Rabbits are also known for their distinctive hop. They can quickly jump through the air, thanks to their powerful hind legs and strong leg muscles.

The Rabbit Hop

Rabbits have very strong, long hind legs, which are the main reason they can jump so high and so far. They also have light, hollow bones, which means they can jump with almost explosive power.

This activity shows how a rabbit's hind leg is like a lever, allowing it to jump high without too much effort.

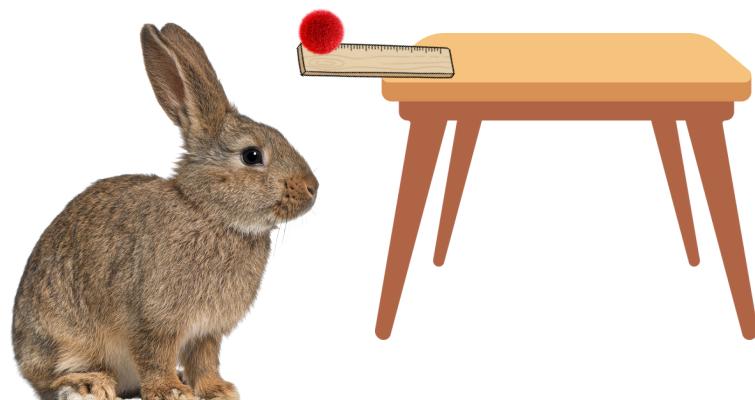
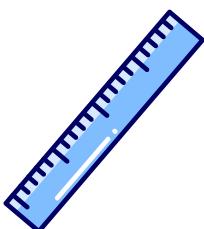
Rabbit lever legs

You'll need

30 cm ruler

Table or solid surface

Small pom pom or light object



Instructions

Place the ruler on a table with about 5 cm hanging over the edge. Place a pom-pom on the edge farthest from the table, then push it down. The pom pom will fly into the air.

This time, move the ruler so that 10cm hangs off the edge. Measure how far the pom pom flies. The longer the lever (rabbit's leg), the further the pom pom (rabbit) and jump!

The longer the lever arm, the further the pom pom flies. Levers make work easier. In this case, the longer the rabbit's foot, the easier it is to lift the rabbit off the ground.