

LESSON 71: ZOOLOGY & HUMANE CARE — RABBITS

GRADE 2 • PART II



Natural History • Animal Welfare

Rabbits are gentle herbivores with long sensitive ears, soft fur coats, and nimble paws. They live safely in hutches or dig underground burrows, eat crisp green plants, and depend on our kind protection.

- white
- brown
- spotted
- long ears
- soft fur
- burrows
- vegetables
- innocent

1 PICTURE STUDY & ANATOMICAL OBSERVATION

Examine the illustration carefully. Answer each classical inquiry in a complete, punctuated sentence using descriptive words from the word bank.

1. Rabbits & Colors: In the picture, I see _____ rabbits; their soft coats are colored _____.
2. Favorite Coat: The coat color I like best is _____ because it looks _____.
3. Ears & Hearing: Rabbits have tall, _____ ears that turn quickly to _____.
4. Body Covering: A rabbit's body is covered with _____.

2 SHELTER, HABITS & HERBIVOROUS DIET

Explain the living requirements and dietary needs of domestic and wild rabbits. Formulate complete, detailed sentences.

5. Night Shelter: At night, pet rabbits must be kept safely inside _____.
6. Clever Escapes: Rabbits sometimes get out of their pen by _____.
7. Daily Diet: Rabbits love to nibble and eat fresh _____.

3 MORAL REFLECTION: KINDNESS TO LIVING CREATURES

Reflect on the textbook question: *"Does it not seem cruel to kill such innocent, pretty creatures?"* Write two noble, heartfelt sentences expressing compassion and explaining why human beings should protect gentle animals.

- Sentence 1: _____
- Sentence 2: _____

Pedagogical Overview • Picture Study, Descriptive Zoology & Humane Ethics

Lesson 71 blends close visual observation with classical moral education. Students observe an engraving/painting of domestic rabbits, catalog physical traits (coat color, ear morphology, fur texture), analyze their underground burrowing and climbing instincts, and engage in compassionate reflection. Ensure pupils answer every question with a complete predicate and appropriate capitalization.

Section 1 Model Answers • Picture Study & Physical Traits

- 1. Count & Colors:** "In the picture, I see four [or five] rabbits; their soft coats are colored white, brown, and spotted." (Accept 4 to 5 depending on student's counting of foreground/background figures; must identify coat variations).
- 2. Favorite Coat:** "The coat color I like best is spotted brown and white because it looks cheerful and distinctive." (Accept any thoughtful color preference with valid rationale).
- 3. Ears & Hearing:** "Rabbits have tall, long ears that turn quickly to catch distant sounds and warn them of approaching danger."
- 4. Body Covering:** "A rabbit's body is covered with dense, long and soft fur that keeps the creature warm in chilly weather."

Section 2 Model Answers • Shelter, Habits & Diet

- 5. Night Shelter:** "At night, pet rabbits must be kept safely inside a sturdy, dry wooden hutch or secure wire pen to protect them from cold winds, damp weather, and prowling predators like foxes or stray dogs."
- 6. Clever Escapes:** "Rabbits sometimes get out of their pen by digging underground burrows beneath the wooden boards or squeezing through a loose fence wire."
- 7. Daily Diet:** "Rabbits love to nibble and eat fresh vegetables such as sweet carrots, crisp cabbage leaves, tender clover, and sweet green grass."

Section 3 Model Answers • Moral Reflection on Humane Care

Exemplar Student Statement: "It is truly cruel and wrong to hurt or kill gentle, innocent creatures who do no harm to anyone. We ought to care for rabbits tenderly with fresh water, wholesome vegetables, and a warm, loving home."

Teaching Note: Praise students who use heartfelt vocabulary such as *harmless, innocent, cherish, protect, tender care*.

R FOUR-DOMAIN EVALUATION RUBRIC (TOTAL: 100 POINTS)

Domain	Exemplary (25)	Proficient (20)	Developing (15)	Beginning (10)	Teacher Feedback
1. Observational Accuracy	Accurately details numbers, colors, long ears, and fur texture.	Notes primary physical traits with minor omissions.	Identifies basic traits but lacks descriptive precision.	Miscounts or overlooks basic observable features.	
2. Habitat & Dietary Logic	Thoroughly explains hutch safety, burrowing escapes, and diet.	Explains shelter and food clearly with good detail.	Partial understanding of burrowing or dietary needs.	Incomplete sentences; incorrect factual claims.	
3. Humane Ethics & Expression	Eloquent, compassionate defense of harmless living creatures.	Expresses kindness clearly in complete, sensible sentences.	Basic statement of kindness without elaboration.	Fragmented thought or fails to address cruelty prompt.	
4. Conventions & Mechanics	Flawless capitalization, periods, commas, and spelling.	1–2 minor capitalization or punctuation slips.	Multiple comma/period errors; readable with effort.	Frequent run-ons, lower-case starters, severe misspellings.	