



# Design a Home for a Pair of Rabbits

## TEACHER NOTES:

The main aim of this activity is for students to understand the basic requirements of suitable housing for rabbits.

This activity could be used following a talk or tour of an animal rescue centre. Our Hertfordshire, Berkshire, Bedfordshire and Somerset centres all care for rabbits.

## Curriculum links:

English – Reading

- 🐾 Word reading.
- 🐾 Comprehension.

English – Writing

- 🐾 Transcription.
- 🐾 Composition, articulating ideas and structuring them in writing.

Art and Design

- 🐾 Produce creative work, exploring their ideas and recording their experiences.
- 🐾 To improve their mastery of art and design techniques, including drawing, painting and sculpture with a range of materials.

**You could develop this task further, and ask pupils to make their design, or make a model of their design.**

Design and Technology

- 🐾 Build and apply a repertoire of knowledge, understanding and skills in order to design and make high-quality prototypes and products for a wide range of users.
- 🐾 Critique, evaluate and test their ideas and products and the work of others.

Design

- 🐾 Use research and develop design criteria to inform the design of innovative, functional, appealing products that are fit for purpose, aimed at particular individuals or groups.
- 🐾 Generate, develop, model and communicate their ideas through discussion, annotated sketches, cross-sectional and exploded diagrams, prototypes, pattern pieces and computer-aided design.

Make

- 🐾 Select from and use a wider range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks [for example, cutting, shaping, joining and finishing], accurately.



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- ❃ Select from and use a wider range of materials and components, including construction materials, textiles and ingredients, according to their functional properties and aesthetic qualities.

## Evaluate

- ❃ Investigate and analyse a range of existing products.
- ❃ Evaluate their ideas and products against their own design criteria and consider the views of others to improve their work.
- ❃ Understand how key events and individuals in design and technology have helped shape the world.

## Technical Knowledge

- ❃ Apply their understanding of how to strengthen, stiffen and reinforce more complex structures.
- ❃ Understand and use mechanical systems in their products [for example, gears, pulleys, cams, levers and linkages].

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Please visit our website for details of how to get in touch with your local rehoming centre: [www.nawt.org.uk/contact](http://www.nawt.org.uk/contact)

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# Design a Home for a Pair of Rabbits

Plan and design your own home for a pair of rabbits. The domestic rabbits you are designing the home for are 40cm tall and 45cm long. They are both female, and both 3 years old. They enjoy spending the majority of their time together.

You should consider various things when making your design:

- ❀ Rabbits need a living area, where they can relax, eat and sleep.
- ❀ The living area needs a darkened shelter for sleeping, and a separate area for toileting and relaxing.
- ❀ The size of the living area needs to be as big as possible, the two rabbits need to be able to lie down and stretch in all directions, and it needs to be tall enough for the rabbits to stand up on their back legs, without their ears touching the top. The living area also needs to be big enough so a rabbit can take at least three hops from one end to the other.
- ❀ The living area needs to be sturdy, raised off the floor and in a sheltered position, protected from excessive sun, wind, rain and cold.
- ❀ Rabbits also need a run, with space to exercise, play and explore.
- ❀ The run needs to be high enough so the rabbits can stretch to full height and large enough so they can run around. It should have a raised area for rabbits to jump on and a sheltered area for each rabbit.
- ❀ Rabbits are curious animals and need lots of mental stimulation (games to play to help keep them busy. This is known as environmental enrichment). Placing empty plant pots, large play tunnels or a cardboard box with an entrance and an exit in the exercise space makes the area more interesting. You could also make space to hide some of their food or hang a carrot on a string in their run.
- ❀ If the run cannot be permanently attached to the hutch, you can have it in a different place, but your rabbit will need to spend quite a few hours in the run every day; rabbits prefer to eat and exercise around dawn and dusk.
- ❀ Both the living area and the run should be escape proof (remember, rabbits love to dig). It also needs to be strong and secure enough to keep foxes, cats, dogs, birds and rats out.

Design and label your drawing. Think of ways you can ensure your design would give a pair of rabbits a safe, fun and suitable home.

