**Rabbit Habitat**
(NatureScope Amazing Mammals II: page 47)

**Third Grade Core: Standard 2 Objective 2**
Describe the interactions between living and nonliving things in a small environment. Predict the effects of changes in the environment on a living organism.

**Objective:** Describe the habitats of cottontail rabbits, jackrabbits, and snowshoe hares. Discuss why rabbits and hares survive best in their specific environments.

**Materials:**
1. Three pieces of mural paper
2. Pictures of a jack-rabbit, snowshoe hare, and cottontail rabbit
3. Pictures of a rabbits in a desert, snowy evergreen forest, or a meadow
4. Construction paper
5. Drawing paper
6. scissors
7. glue
8. markers
9. Velcro fasteners
10. Cotton balls

Have your students make a habitat mural to learn where cottontails, jackrabbits, and snowshoe hares live.

1. Print out outlines of the three rabbits. Make enough copies of each rabbit for one-third of the class.
2. Divide students into three groups (cottontails, jackrabbits, and snowshoe hares). Show pictures of the rabbits, their habitat, and review characteristics of these mammals.
3. Give students a rabbit outline and a piece of construction paper (brown for jackrabbits and cottontails and white paper for snowshoe hares).
4. Glue outline to construction paper to make it sturdier, and then cut out the shape.
5. Glue the fuzzy side of the Velcro to the rabbit.
6. Spread out the mural paper on the ground. Explain that each group will work together to make a different type of habitat mural. The cottontails can draw grasses, shrubs and other meadow plants. The jackrabbits can illustrate a rocky desert scattered with sagebrush and cactuses. And snowshoe hares can make a winter forest scene by cutting out or drawing evergreen trees and gluing on cotton balls for snow.
7. Discuss how these rabbits and hares have special characteristics that help them live where they do.
   a. Snowshoe hares have brown fur in summer and white fur in the winter.
   b. All three of the rabbits and hares have camouflage to help them hide from predators.
c. All rabbits and hares have special hopping hind legs that help them escape from predators.

d. Cottontails often hop into thick meadow foliage to hide.

e. How jackrabbits are adapted to desert life.

8. Discuss what would happen if the environment of these rabbits changed (e.g. snow melts early, desert cools down, meadow dries up). You could do this by moving student-made rabbits/hares into different murals.
Jackrabbit
Cottontail Rabbit
Cottontail Rabbit