

The Baby Fox & the Baby Rabbit
Animal Babies: Born Wild Series

Subject Areas: Science, Life Science, Language Arts, Social Studies

Synopsis:

Baby foxes wait in their den for their mother to return from hunting. A rabbit tempts Ben out of his hole, but Ben's hunting technique is not very good. He stalks a pheasant but misses that prey as well. Then Ben tracks the rabbit by smell and finally catches his prey. In part 2, Emily, a baby rabbit, is surrounded by her brothers and sisters when her mother decides to do a little housecleaning. Later they all have their daily nursing session and take a walk outside. There they learn to eat grass, flowers and other edible plants.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to identify and describe the physical characteristics of foxes and rabbits.
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to describe how the parents care for the animal babies.
- Objective 3)** Students will understand the concept of "family" in the animal and the human world.
- Objective 4)** Students will understand that all animals are defenseless when they are born but that they all learn to survive against predators and support themselves by finding their own sources of food.
- Objective 5)** Students will understand that for animals and for humans, learning is part of growth.
- Objective 6)** Students will understand that all babies grow to become adult members of their species.

Pre-Viewing Questions and Activities:

- 1) Where do baby foxes live?
- 2) How do their mothers protect them?
- 3) Are rabbits and foxes natural enemies?

Vocabulary: Define and discuss the following key terms:

Forbidden, stealthy, prey, persevere, pheasant, stubborn, burrow, litter, chaotic, oversized, trampling, gluttons, nibbling, hesitant, outings, surroundings

Post-Viewing Questions and Discussion:

- 1) What is an animal den? Where are fox dens located?
- 2) What do foxes eat?
- 3) What physical characteristic makes foxes excellent hunters?

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- 4) Describe the habitat of foxes and rabbits.
- 5) Each time a mother rabbit gives birth, approximately how many babies does she have?
- 6) How often do baby rabbits nurse?
- 7) What do adult rabbits eat?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Write a story about a young fox that goes hunting by himself for the very first time.
- 2) Investigate the natural predators of foxes and rabbits.
- 3) Investigate the problem of too many rabbits in certain parts of the world. What is being done to control rabbit populations?
- 4) On the Internet or in the school media center, find further information about either of these animals. Present the information in an entertaining way to classmates who think there is nothing more to learn about foxes or rabbits.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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