

Name _____



God - The Friend and Neighbour

God said; "Let
the earth bring
forth creatures
of all kinds, cattle and
creeping things and
beasts of the earth."

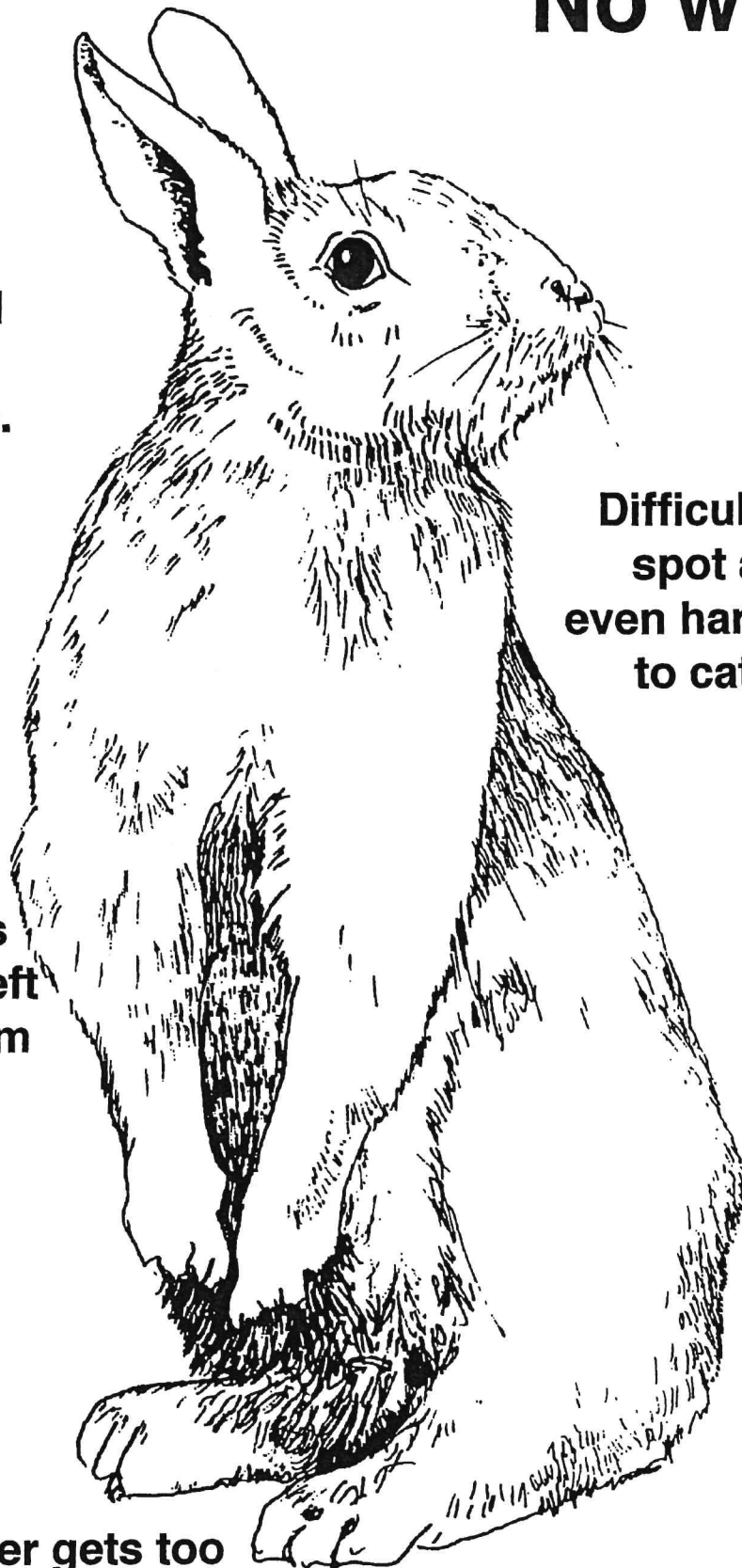
Genesis

**Just a fluffy little bunny rabbit?
No way!**

**This is the artful
dodger of the
animal kingdom.**

**Difficult to
spot and
even harder
to catch.**

**His side-step
leaves any
chaser
mesmerised as
he darts from left
to right and from
right to left at
great speed.**



**And when danger gets too
close he will spring out of reach using his powerful hind
legs, or he will disappear down the nearest hole.
He's a real jack-in-a-box!**

The Rabbit - a success story.

Here is one of the most successful of land creatures.

Successful?

Oh yes! Rabbits can be found living in the wild in most parts of the world, and surviving very nicely thank you.

But meeting **one** rabbit doesn't really tell the full story - you may as well meet the whole **family** - brothers and sisters, parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles, nephews, nieces and cousins. And while you are at it you might as well meet the **friends** and **neighbours** - yes all of them - because rabbits don't choose to live alone. No, they prefer to live in groups, called **colonies**, and one of the main reasons for their successful existence is the fact that rabbit communities live **underground** where they are safe from most hungry predators.

The 'streets' of their territory are an intricate network of tunnels called **burrows** which knit together to form a **warren**. This maze of passages provides each family with a **home**, a shelter, a place of comfort and safety in which to bring up their young.

Like any successful **community** the rabbits fend for each other and jealously guard the warren against would be intruders.

Let us look more closely at rabbits and see how they make new life.



Turn and learn . . .

The Rabbit -

more than just a pet ... a creature of the wild whose history in this country dates back to Norman times where it was recognised as a friend to man - helping to trim grassland and hedgerows.

Perhaps the rabbit was man's first lawn mower!!

Like almost every other form of life, the species can be divided into male and female.

With sticklebacks we could tell male from female by both shape and colour. (Can you remember?)

Swallows were almost impossible to tell apart - the sexes looked the same to the human eye.

With rabbits it is difficult to separate male from female at a distance, but close observation reveals two good clues

- 1. When side by side the female is usually larger than the male.**
- 2. The male rabbit has a broader head than the female, (see the box opposite).**

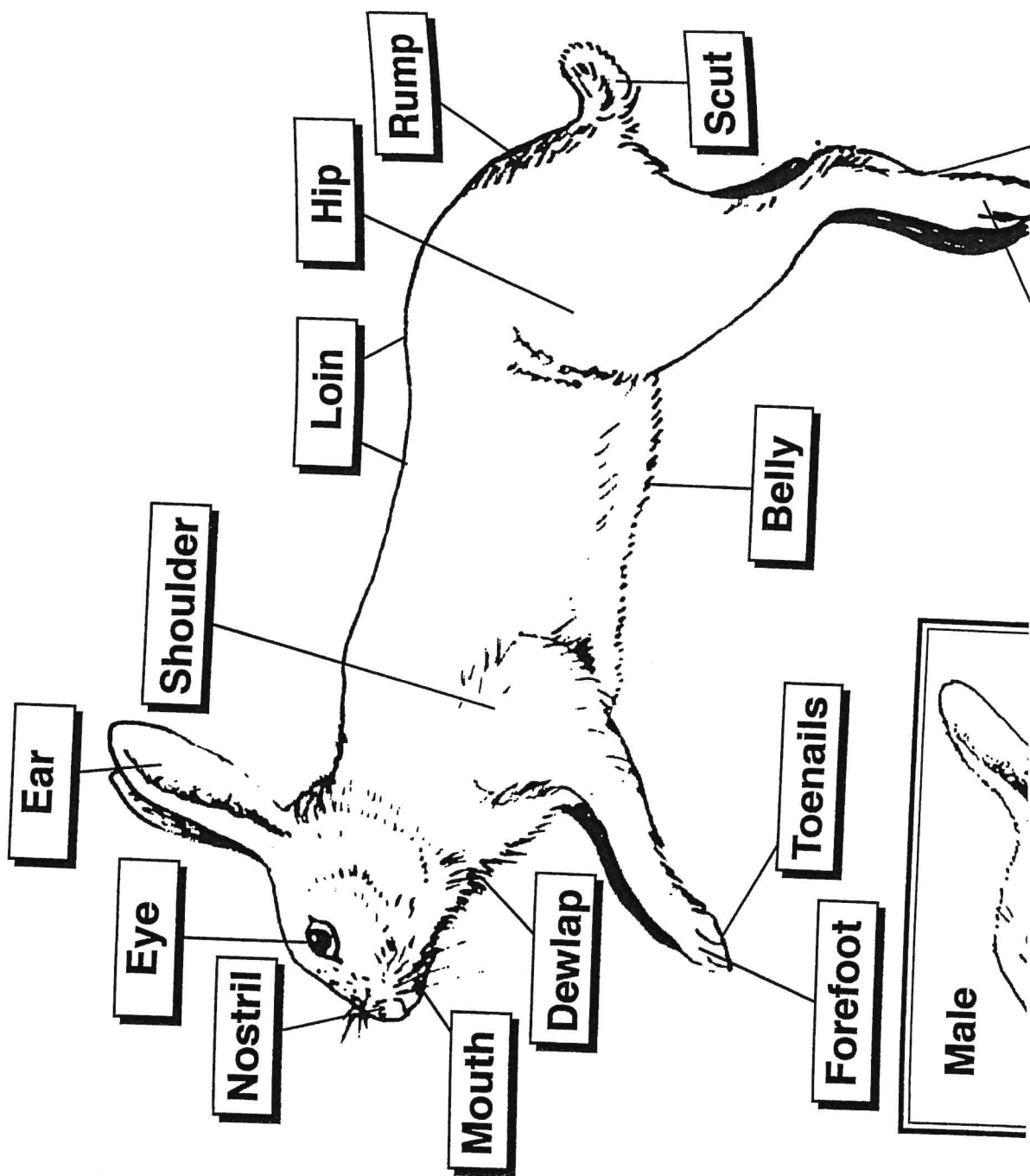
A male rabbit is called a buck.

A female rabbit is called a doe.

What are baby rabbits called? Answer

Colour the diagrams.

The parts of a Rabbit



Our story begins in early Springtime, when an adult male rabbit (buck) seeks a female (doe) living within the warren.

Before they can mate and have a family the buck has to attract a doe.

**No zig zag dancing like the stickleback.
No swooping and showing off like the swallow.
The buck's courtship is more gentle
a little tail flagging, a little nuzzling.**

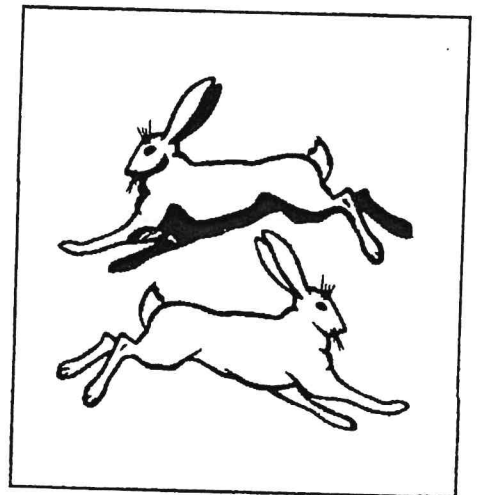
With luck the doe will return the affection shown by the buck. If she does it means she likes him and is ready to share with him the responsibility of having a family and looking after the young.

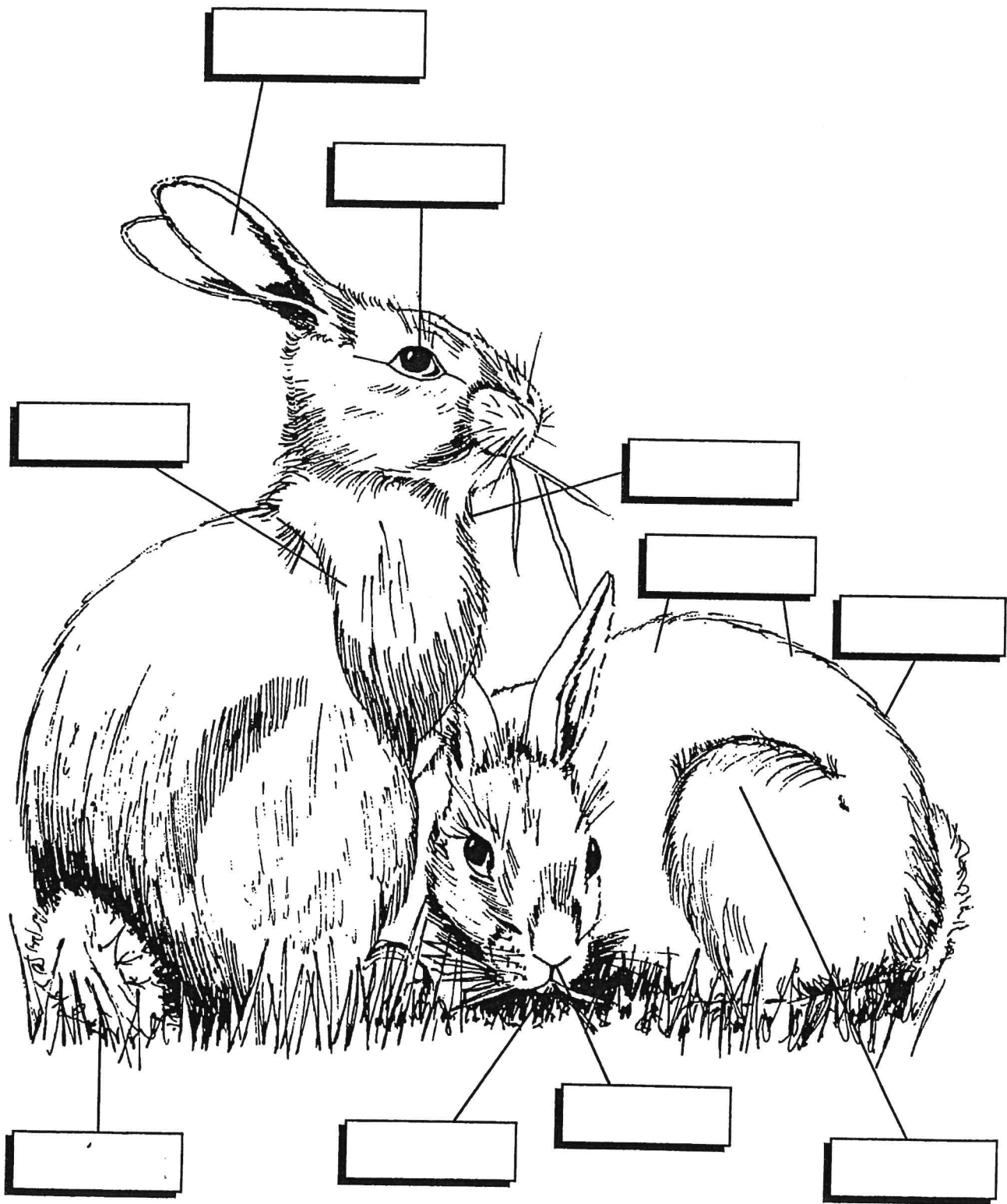
Remember...

*just like sticklebacks and swallows ...
mating (making a family) is a natural thing for
rabbits to do.*

*If they didn't mate and produce young
all rabbits would die out within a matter of years ;
the species would become ...*

e _ _ _ _ _ .





When the baby rabbits are born they cannot see or hear. They are hairless and quite helpless. The litter may contain as many as 9 babies, each weighing about 40 - 50g.

They grow rapidly and by the time they are 18 days old weigh between 150 and 200g which is about _____ times their birth weight.

When you colour the top picture opposite remember the babies have no fur when born ; they should be greyish pink in colour.

IMPORTANT FACT

A rabbit is a MAMMAL which means it has warm blood and feeds on its mother's milk when it is young.

The mother suckles the babies once a day for about 3 weeks.

BEING A PARENT IS QUITE A RESPONSIBILITY !!!

The picture opposite shows a litter of 6 babies, each suckling from one of the mother's teats ...

"Hey, no fighting you lot ! There's plenty for everyone."

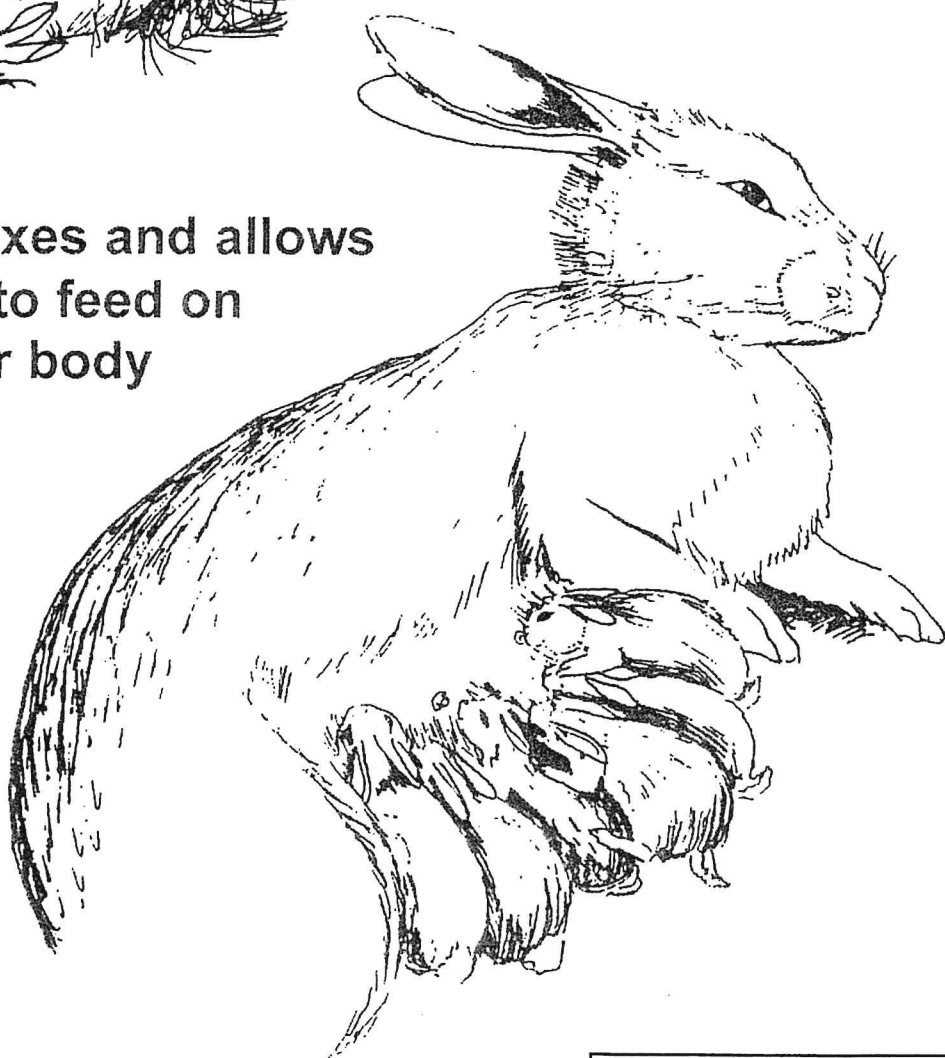
When you colour the bottom picture opposite remember the babies are now growing fur.

BEING A PARENT IS QUITE A RESPONSIBILITY!!!



Moments after the birth of her babies - the mother cleans her young with tender loving care.

Mother relaxes and allows the babies to feed on the milk her body produces.



After a few weeks the young rabbits are big enough to go outside and explore.

They begin to look for food.

During this time the mother fiercely **protects** them from enemies.

BEING A PARENT IS QUITE A RESPONSIBILITY.

When they are used to coming out of the burrow the mother stops feeding them with her own milk - it is time for the young rabbits to find their own food food like their parents eat.

Finding food is relatively easy - these creatures are **herbivores** which means

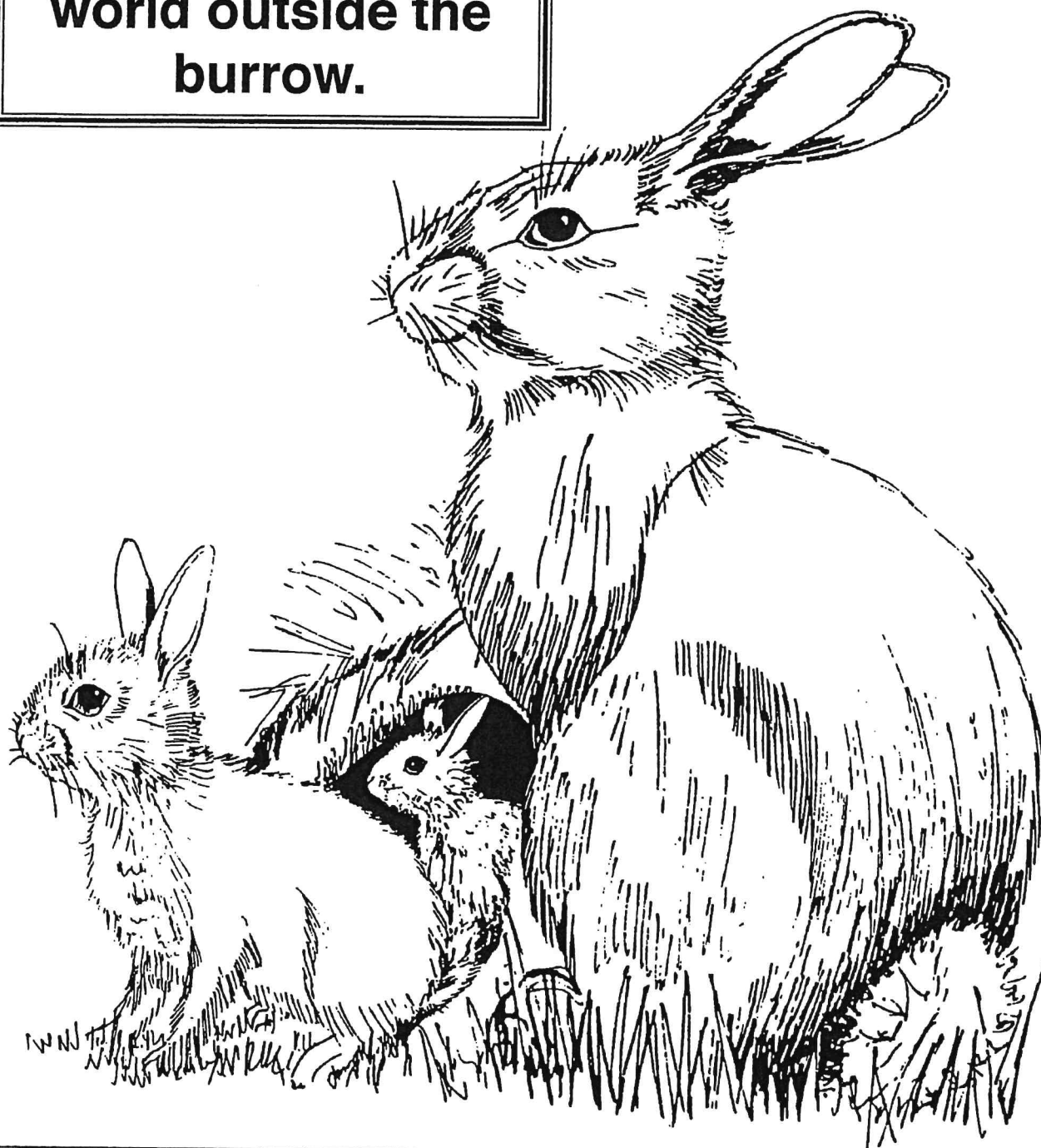
In order to eat their food they need the right tools for the job. Nature has **provided** them with sharp front teeth for cutting, and back teeth for grinding leaves and grasses to make them easier to swallow.

Humans also have sharp teeth at the front for cutting ... these are called

We also have back teeth for grinding, which are called

Colour the picture.

**The young rabbits
get their first
glimpse of the
world outside the
burrow.**



**It is still an important time for the adults
as they keep a watchful eye on the
surrounding countryside for signs of
danger.**

Within months the young rabbits will be fully grown (adult), and ready to begin looking for a mate of their own to start a new family.

But at this stage, they spend their time eating and playing with other members of the family, and getting to know the rest of their community.

Have you ever seen rabbits in the wild ...
eating and playing ... early in the morning, or in the late evening ?

Maths Challenge : Forget the calculator, it may not be big enough !!!.....

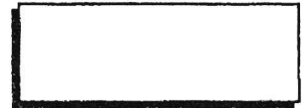
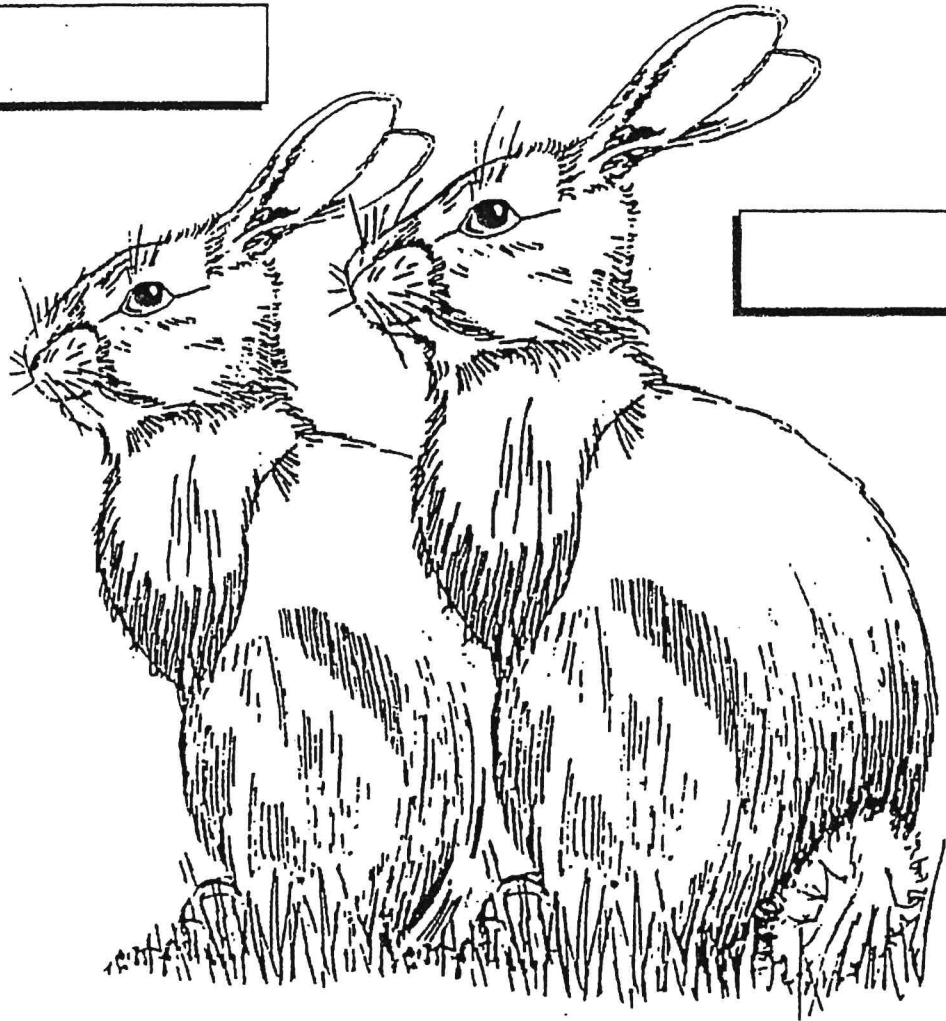
and you'll see why when you read and think about the information given to you on Page 19 ; the numbers being talked about on P19 are pretty staggering.

As you debate the facts & figures consider MODERN FARMING METHODS and ask yourself if "problems" highlighted in the U.K. in 1939 could now be turned into "solutions" in those parts of the world where food is scarce and people are STARVING.

Broaden your discussions (beyond rabbits) to include all types of farming livestock including cattle, pigs, sheep & fish ... as well as crops like cereals, fruit and vegetables.



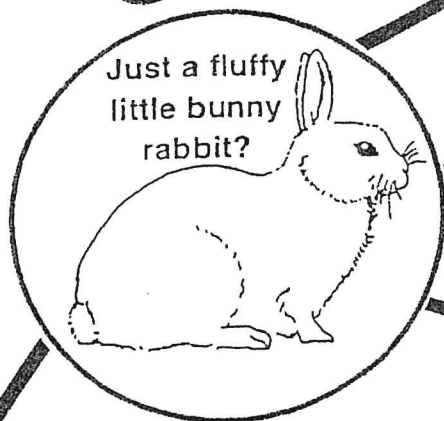
**Mature, adult rabbits -
ready to start a family
of their own.**



Friend or Foe?

Food For Thought

SCIENCE V CONSCIENCE



Just a fluffy
little bunny
rabbit?

Fact : In 1859 Mr. Thomas Austen imported 24 wild British rabbits into Australia for "sport". By 1865 (only 6 years later) 20,000 had been killed on Austen's estate alone.

Fact : In the UK., in 1939, Parliament passed the "Prevention of Damage by Rabbits Act" giving local authorities the power to force landowners to destroy wild rabbits because they were "a pest".

Thought : What would happen to a farmer's crops (food grown to feed us) if there was no form of control to keep the rabbit numbers down ?

Thought : Rabbits breed all the year round and their young can breed when they are SIX MONTHS OLD. Given "favourable circumstances" it is reckoned that a **single pair of rabbits** would in **3 years** have a progeny numbering 13, 718, 000 that's thirteen million, !!!!!

NOW THINK BACK TO THE MATHS CHALLENGE ON PAGE 17
AND CONSIDER HOW MODERN FARMING MIGHT FIND A SOLUTION
TO THE SHORTAGE OF FOOD IN SOME PARTS OF THE WORLD.

GIVING NATURE A HELPING HAND

(Remember the scientific formula female eggs + male sperm = new life)

Modern scientists have learned how to **control the birth patterns** of a great many species of life ... from rare, endangered animals to more familiar ones like sheep, horses, cattle and pigs. By collecting sperm from a male animal and placing it into the womb of a female (close to her egg) they can help the female to become pregnant and produce young. **There are many reasons why this might be done here are just two :**

to save species which are in
danger of becoming extinct

to produce more animals
which give us meat, milk etc.



Choose one of the above and say
why you think the scientist's work
is a good thing ... or a bad thing.

Friends and Neighbours

Begin by reading page 2 of your booklet again ...
(well, go on then!)

Now read on

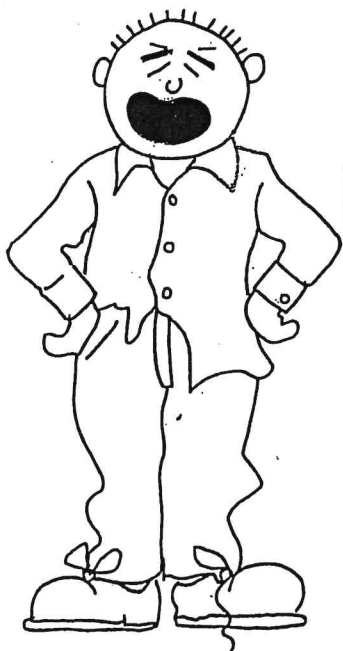
Question: What makes a rabbit a good friend and neighbour?

Answer 1: **It doesn't go looking for trouble.** If, whilst exploring the countryside it accidentally strays onto another rabbit's territory, it will behave submissively towards the one on its home ground. This behaviour ensures that rabbits are good neighbours.

Answer 2: **It will look after the rest of the community.** If danger approaches, a rabbit will warn all others in the group by thumping the ground with its hind feet. They all get the message and dive for cover!

Answer 3: **It shares with others.** Rabbits are communal grazers so you never see them squabbling over food ... there's plenty for everyone.

No fighting - looking after each other - sharing with others.
Wouldn't it be nice if all humans lived the same way!??



FRIENDSHIP
is a "two way" thing.



And it starts with
YOU !

Friends and Neighbours

Begin by reading page 2 of your booklet again ...
(well, go on then!)

Now read on

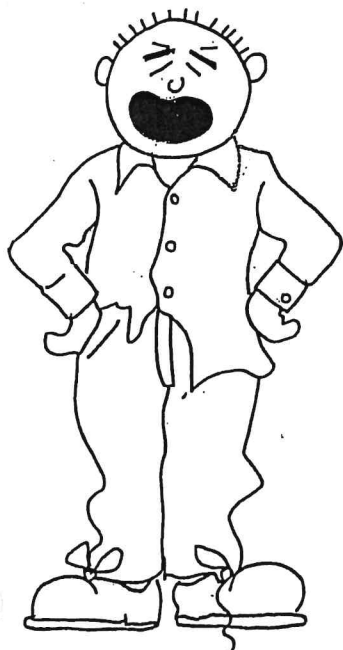
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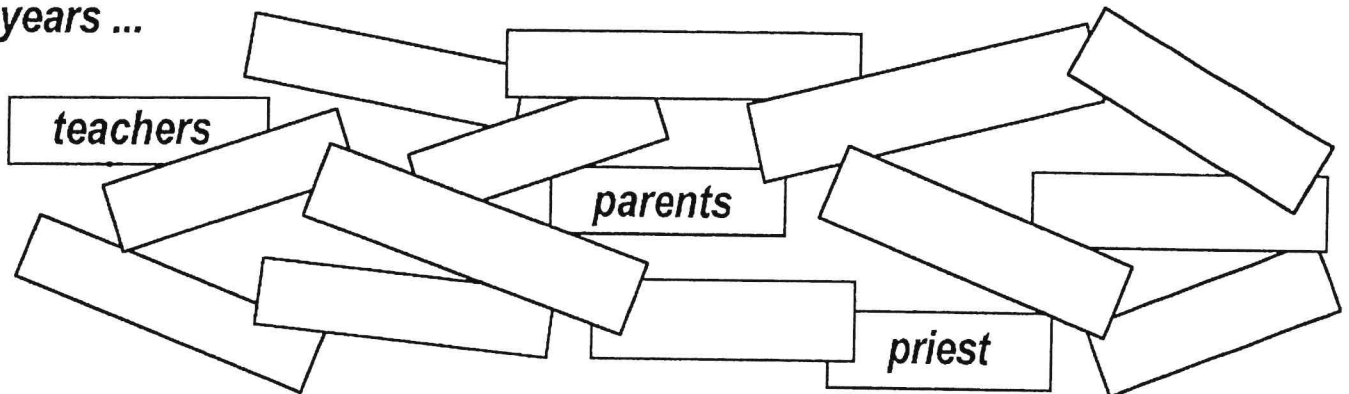


Bend Me, Shape Me

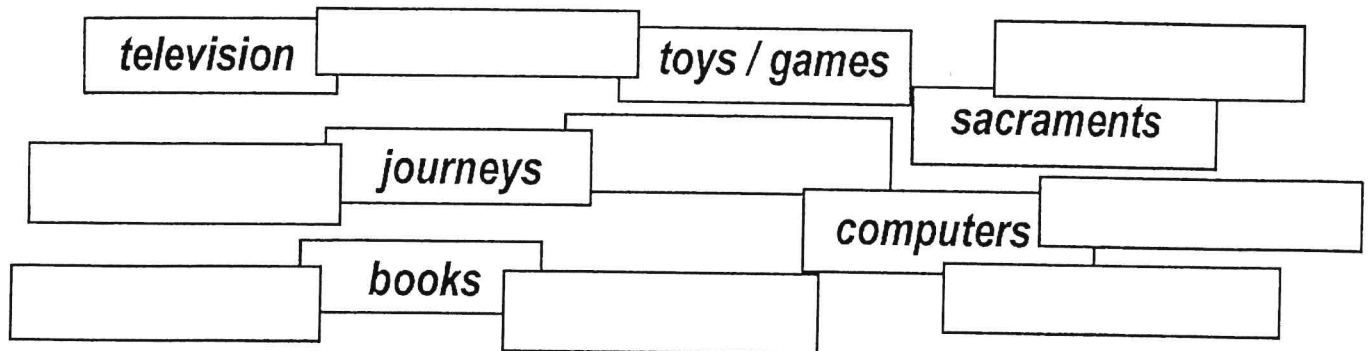
As you grow you are constantly changing. The way you look (your appearance) is often down to "characteristics" passed on to you by your parents at birth you may for example resemble a parent or grandparent, or you may be particularly tall (or short) like others in your family these are called "family characteristics." We all seem to have them.

But as for the type of person you have become ... this is down to two "influences" ...

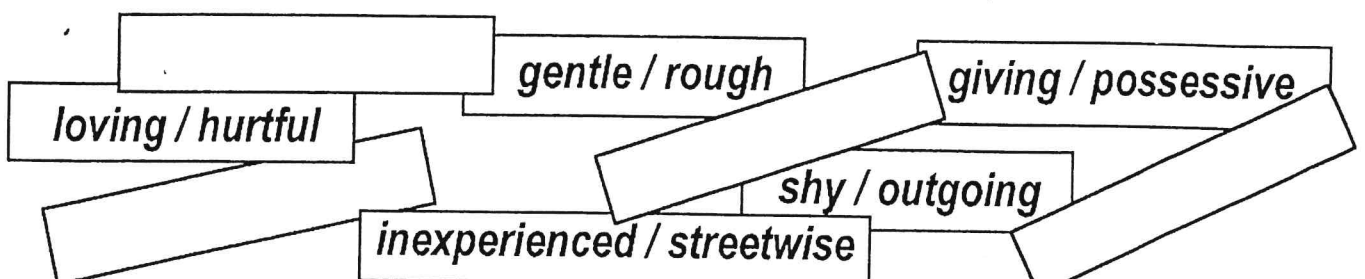
1. the people who have moved in and out of your life over the last 8 or 9 years ...



2. the things you have been exposed to since the day you were born



All these "influences" have combined to "mould" you (shape you) into the sort of person you are right now ... your CHARACTER

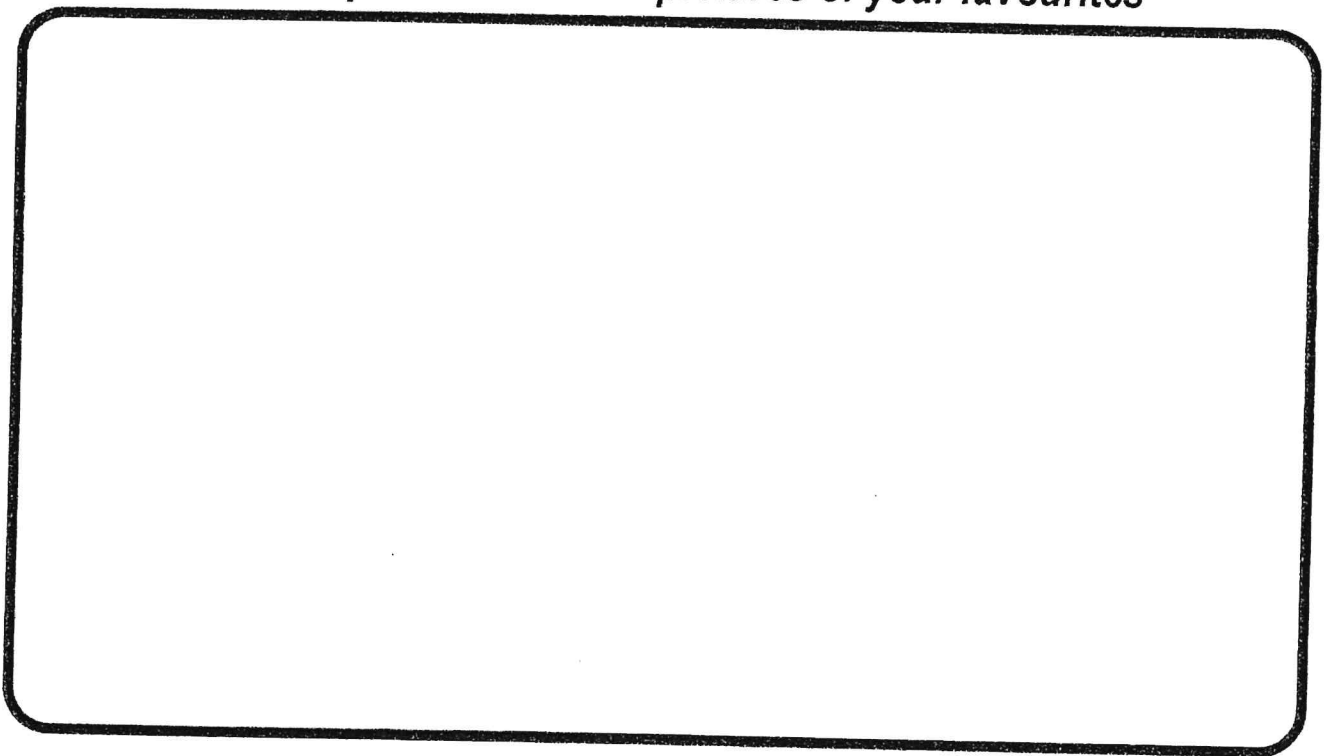


Take A Look Around You

Who stands out ?

We all have our own "Role Models" ... our heroes
people who we think are "cool" or "brill"
people we admire ...
people we try to follow and copy.

Fill the space below with pictures of your favourites



Now take a good hard look at yourself ..

and look at the role model
who sits above all the rest
..... **THE EXAMPLE**
the one we should all be
trying to follow, _____.

**Ask yourself ... am I really
walking in his footsteps ?**

image of
you

image of
'the best'
role model

KEEP LOOKING AT YOURSELF

(DEEPER & DEEPER)

When you play are you fair or are you mean ? ☐

..... do you accept the views of others
or do you always want your own
way ? ☐

..... if you cause an accident do you
help to put it right or do you just
walk away without concern ? ☐

In class do you get on with your work or
do you annoy & distract others ? ☐

..... do you take responsibility for
your actions or do you always
blame others ? ☐

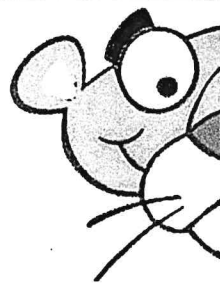
..... do you share books & equipment
with everyone or just close friends ? ☐

Out of school do you become a different person,
"showing off" to win popularity ? ☐

..... do you encourage friends to do
things which you know are wrong ? ☐

**Would other members of your
class agree with your answers ?**

HIDDEN INFLUENCES



My Favourite Television Programmes / Series

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

My Favourite Films / Series

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

My Favourite Computer Games

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TV

PRE-W/S.
POST-W/S.

A-CON.
VIO.

Films

12 CERT.
15 CERT.
18 CERT.

A-CON.
VIO.

Comp. Games

12+
15+
18+

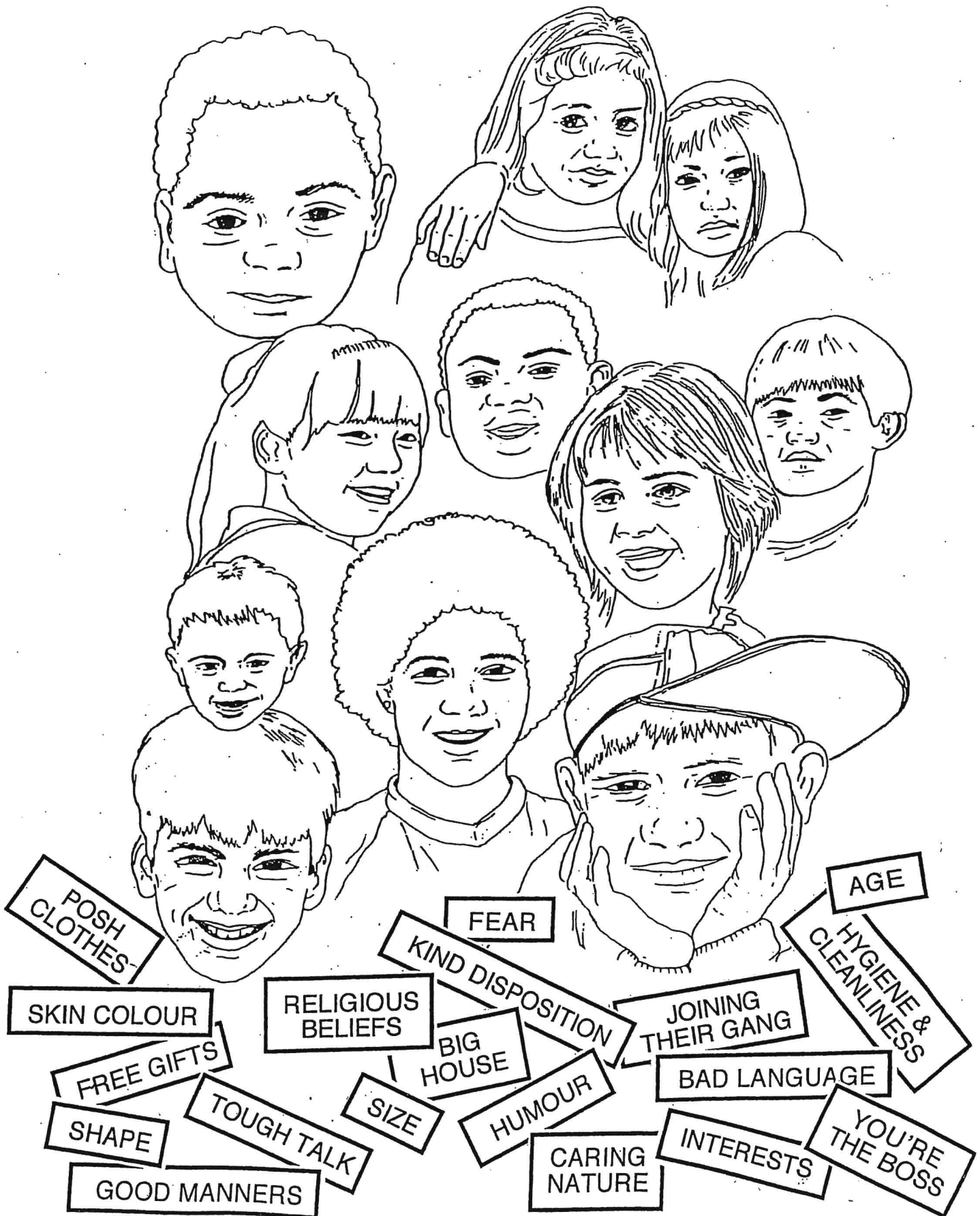
A-CON.
VIO.



Use the results as the basis for discussion at home and at school.

● What do you think a survey of **favourite internet websites** would reveal ?

How Do You Choose Your Friends ?



SHOWING RACISM THE RED CARD !

These children have a problem

Their parents brought them up to respect all human beings, but some of their circle of friends appear to have strong racist views ; they ridicule people just because of the way they look ... their colour or their culture. They even threaten violence against some!

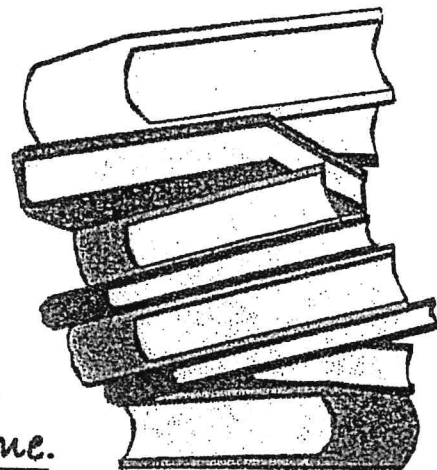
What advice would you give them ?

DO YOU REALISE :

- * children in your class with whom you don't mix or play (at present) could be your best and closest friends in a few years time !!?
- * children who presently go to other schools and play against you at netball, soccer, rounders, cricket etc. could (in the future) turn out to be on the same team as you at the same secondary school !!?
- * strangers you pass on the street could turn out to be your workmates in years to come !!?



Don't judge a book by its cover !!!



Millions and millions and millions of people share our great planet .. but no two are the same. Some look similar. Some look very different.

Look at these faces. They could come from different parts of the world ...

E _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _
A _ _ _ _ _ A _ _ _ _ _



Or ... they could be images of people born in your very own town .. perhaps even your street !!! Surprise, surprise.

Yes, we are different ... and we should celebrate being different. How boring our world would be if we all looked the same, dressed the same, spoke the same ... like robots !!!

We should all be proud of our h _ ri _ _ ge (our family background), and we should rightly celebrate our family tr _ di _ i _ _ s. BUT we should also have **TOTAL RESPECT** for the t _ ad _ _ io _ s, f _ st _ _ als and cel _ br _ tio _ s of those people who share a family background which differs from our own.

When we live together as part of the same community it doesn't matter if we do all look different. What matters is that we respect each other, value each other, AND WORK TOGETHER for the good of everyone in the community.

Dó you and your family celebrate any special days, or events each year ?

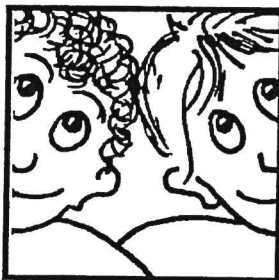
Neighbours Wordsearch

L	B	K	O	L	U	F	P	L	E	H	W	E	T	B
O	G	R	D	R	A	W	Z	J	S	L	L	D	Y	A
T	N	S	E	L	F	I	S	H	U	E	B	K	E	D
E	I	X	T	B	O	A	N	F	C	V	E	V	X	T
C	R	F	O	S	P	Y	R	K	D	I	I	H	G	E
O	A	R	G	U	M	E	N	T	A	T	I	V	E	M
N	C	I	I	E	E	I	D	P	C	R	E	G	N	P
S	T	E	B	H	V	A	W	U	L	O	V	N	E	E
I	N	N	C	T	L	D	R	U	C	P	Y	A	R	R
D	U	D	F	R	I	T	P	N	F	P	I	C	O	E
E	G	L	Q	U	S	B	H	F	Y	U	P	H	U	D
R	H	Y	H	E	E	D	L	E	S	S	C	M	S	O
A	S	N	D	C	F	M	D	C	A	K	I	L	T	O
T	H	O	U	G	H	T	F	U	L	R	G	O	U	S
E	S	M	E	O	R	J	U	Q	D	N	I	K	N	U

Helpful
 Considerate
 Noisy
 Selfish
 Caring
 Unkind
 Thoughtful
 Heedless
 Bad-tempered
 Cheerful
 Supportive
 Friendly
 Destructive
 Generous
 Argumentative
 Bigoted

Now put the words into the correct column.

Good Neighbour



.....

.....

.....

.....

Bad Neighbour



.....

.....

.....

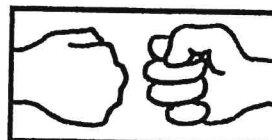
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When He was asked "Who is my neighbour?"

(Luke Ch. 10 : 25)

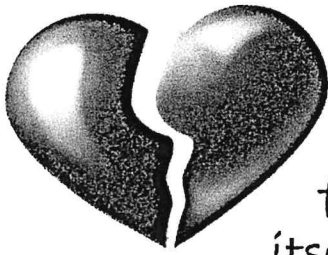
To understand the story fully you need to know what love is and you need to understand who your neighbour is.



Love is . . . _____

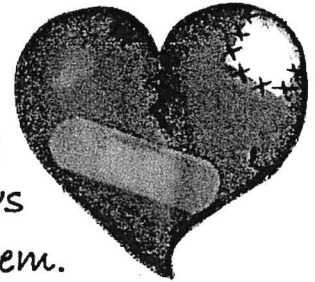
Understanding "Love"

It's not just about kissing & cuddling you know !



Love comes from within.

It is a human emotion .. a deep feeling for someone or something .. and it shows itself in kindness or affection towards them.



Love is a VERY powerful emotion.

- It can take away "fear" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "distress" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "anger" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "pain" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "sadness" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "despair" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "restlessness" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "self-doubt" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "hostility" and replace it with _____
- It can take away "shame" and replace it with _____



"To me, fair friend,
you never can be old,
for as you were when
first your eyes I eyed,
such seems your
beauty still."
(Wm. Shakespeare)

"If there ever comes a day
when we can't be together,
keep me in your heart,
I'll stay there forever."
(Winnie the Pooh)

"Love can move mountains"

"Amazing love! How can it be
That Thou, My God, shouldst
die for me." (Charles Wesley)

"The greatest science in the world -
in heaven and on earth, is love."
(Mother Teresa)

"To give and not expect
return, that is what lies
at the heart of love."
(Oscar Wilde)

"Love is never defeated
the history of Ireland proves
it." (Pope John Paul II)

"Where there is love
there is life."
Mahatma Gandhi

"Love is the only force
capable of transforming
an enemy into a friend."
(Martin Luther King)

"All you need is love."
(The Beatles)

"The greatest thing you'll ever learn
is just to love and be loved in return."
(Nat King Cole)

"Since love grows within you, so beauty grows.
For love is the beauty of the soul." (St. Augustine)

What about "falling in love" (with someone special) can you just decide yes I will ... or ... no I won't fall in love with them ? Does it work this way ? Can you choose ?

**MEMBERS OF MY
CLASS**

**ON THE STREET
WHERE I LIVE**

**WHO IS
MY
NEIGHBOUR
?**



**MY COMMUNITY
"RESPECT"**

**MY PARISH -
"PEACE BE WITH
YOU"**

A LOCAL CHARITY

HELP THE AGED



WE ARE
ALSO YOUR
NEIGHBOUR

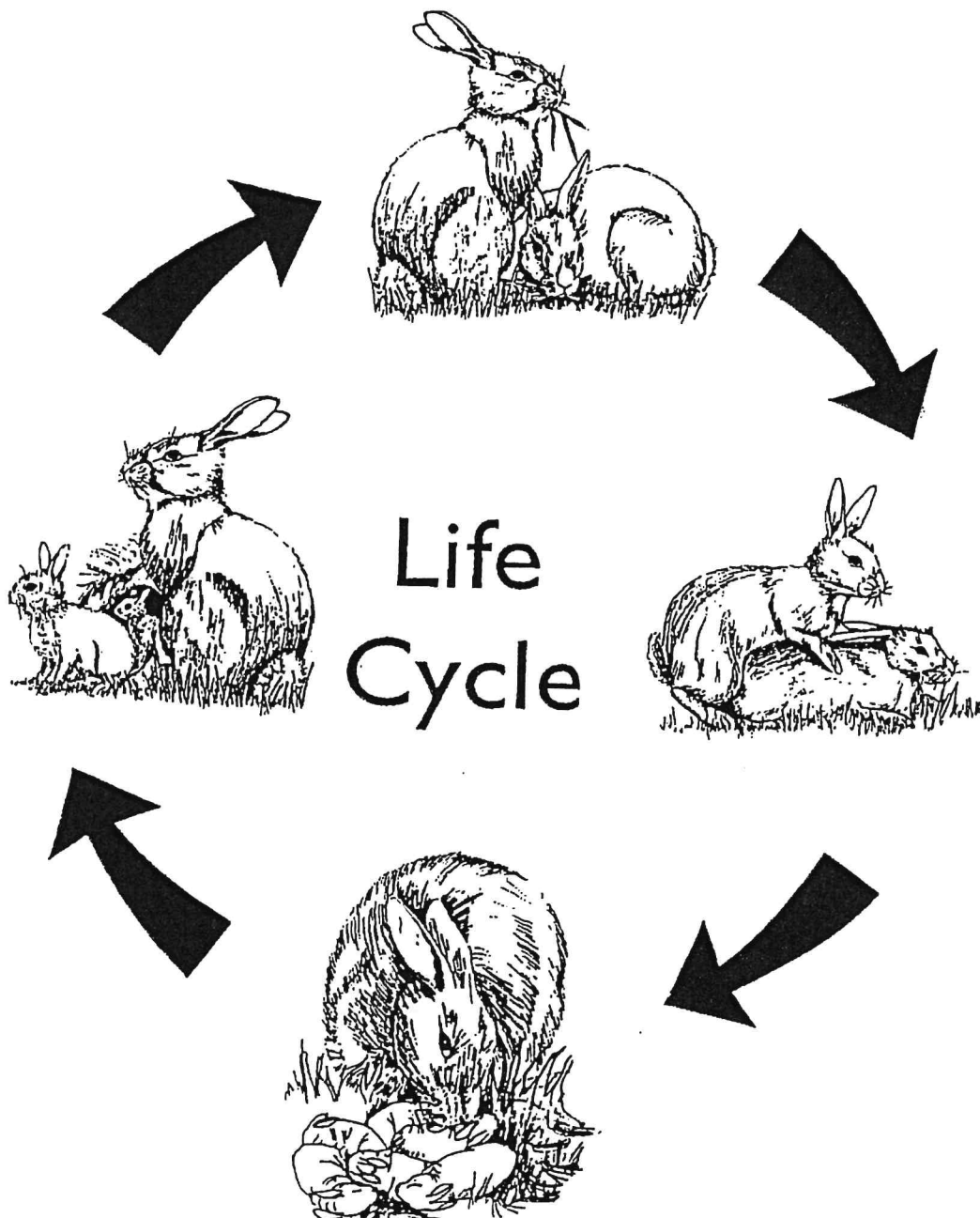


	B	B	C				
C	H	I	L	D	R	E	N
I	N			N	E	E	D

 **CAFOD**

CHILDREN IN NEED

Rabbits are very social creatures and more often than not will bond for life. Families live in harmony alongside each other within the rabbit community and as good neighbours - look after each other.



In the same way, we humans have learned the value of not living in isolation. But if we do live as part of a community we have a responsibility towards other members of the group ~ to live in harmony and not cause disruption or trouble.



UNITED WE STAND

Jesus said,
“My little children, I shall not be with you much longer. I give you a new commandment :
LOVE ONE ANOTHER ; just as I have loved you ~ you also must love one another. By this love you have for one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples.”

MY PRAYER FOR FRIENDSHIP

Help me Lord to be a good friend and neighbour

- slow to _____
- quick to _____
- respectful to _____
- welcoming to _____
- polite to _____
- helpful to _____
- loving to _____

.... and help me to stay close to you my best friend. Amen.