

CROSSROADS

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter January, 2023

Rabbits

Bre'r (brother) Rabbit, the main protagonist in Joel Chandler Harris' "Uncle Remus, His Songs and His Sayings: The Folk-lore of the Old Plantation", has

been a well-loved character in American literature for well over a century. His persona is a derivation from traditional African folktales that include Trickster rabbits. Those stories travelled to North America with the slave trade and they were mixed with Native American folktales also featuring Trickster rabbits. These stories were shared orally among plantation workers who identified with the cunning and resourceful rabbit who seemed to always get the better of his more powerful antagonists, Bre'r Fox and Bre'r Bear.

Some 50 years after the initial publication of Uncle Remus and Bre'r Rabbit, the "Trickster" rabbit theme was picked up in the form of the now world famous Bugs Bunny character. Bugs made his début in 1930's for Warner Brothers in an



animated cartoon and he is now one of the most internationally recognized comic characters of all time. Bugs, like Bre'r Rabbit, is a relatively modern manifestation of a very ancient archetype that can be found in many cultures all over the ancient world—the Trickster. Bugs is cunning, charismatic, smart and can always outwit and escape his enemies who, invariably, are stronger and more powerful than he.

Peter Rabbit, created by British author Beatrix Potter in 1893 is another, sometimes naughty and mischievous, adventurous young rabbit who must use his wits to get himself out of the trouble and danger he puts himself in.

These three rabbit characters fit well with the archetypal image of the Trickster who relies on wit, charm, cunning and even deceit to survive in an often hostile world. They represent a very ancient archetype: the rebel, the freedom fighter, the non-conformist forever elusive, escaping danger and refusing to be caught or defeated. Perhaps it is for this reason that in many cultures rabbits

also symbolize good luck and are associated with spring and rejuvenation. Take for example the belief that carrying a rabbit's foot amulet will offer protection and bring good luck; a practice that goes back to 600 BC in Europe and is still practiced to this day in many parts of the world.

Rabbit and his wilder cousin Hare are not always seen in such a positive light. For example, in Aztec mythology Rabbit represented not only fertility but also parties, promiscuity and drunkenness! In some Native American tales, Rabbit is a clown, a thief, or lecher – an ambivalent, amoral figure dancing on the edge of right and wrong. So what will the rabbit bring us this year? Whatever it is, we wish everyone...



Peter in trouble, again

Happy New Year!

Net News

NET LESSONS: Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

Here's a little more on rabbits and mythology:

<https://thebunnyhub.com/rabbit-symbolism/>

Some Thoughts for the Month



Joshua Says: The language of AI is definitely English. An article was brought to my attention recently expressing this very concept. It was reported that many Japanese Tech companies are now shifting operations completely over to English. This is, primarily, to attract talented foreign staff, but this also requires the Japanese staff to use only English. It seems that the road to success is more and more dependent on the ability to effectively use English at work in Japan.

Junko Says: A renowned gastroenterologist says a healthy plant-based diet is the best way to lose weight, restore your health and optimize your micro biome. He says fiber is the basis of good health, and short chain fatty acids generated from fiber are the key. Here are some fiber rich foods: fruits, vegetables and legumes; and some of the top probiotic foods: yogurt, sauerkraut, soft cheese, miso, kefir, sourdough bread and sour pickles. I hope this list will help support some New Year resolutions.



Marek Says: New Year is upon us and, traditionally, it's time to treat yourself to a resolution or two. It is quite likely that you will just rehash your resolution from a previous year, as many of us do. Only around half of the people, who set themselves a new year's resolution, manage to continue with it. Provided you have strong motivation and a genuine reason for it, your chances of succeeding are pretty high.

Mandcy dit: Dans quelques jours, c'est la chandeleur. En effet, chaque année le 2 février, les français mangent des crêpes. Le secret pour cuisiner des crêpes, c'est le rhum ! Beaucoup de rhum !! L'alcool disparaît avec la chaleur de la cuisson alors n'hésitez pas à en utiliser beaucoup. Attention, si vous voulez manger sucré, c'est une crêpe. Mon conseil : Nutella, chantilly, divers fruits et une boule de glace. Mais si vous désirez avaler une crêpe salée, alors le nom change. Cela s'appelle une galette. Mon conseil : jambon, fromage, oignon et salade. Bon appétit ! Bon appétit !!



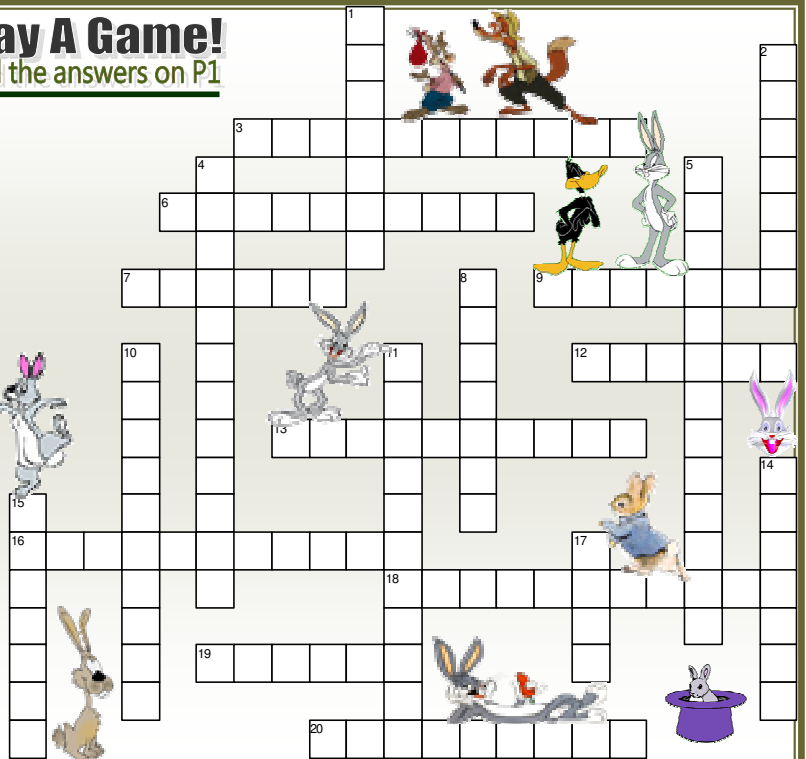
ACROSS

- 3 the main character in a work of fiction
- 6 coming from the source or origin
- 7 jewelry worn for protection
- 9 difficult to catch
- 12 misleading, fraudulent
- 13 without any change
- 16 rivals, enemies
- 18 playfully annoying
- 19 be smarter than
- 20 original model

DOWN

- 1 at the beginning, first
- 2 unfriendly, an enemy
- 4 restoring to a youthful condition
- 5 clear appearance
- 8 skillful, deceptive
- 10 uncertain which way to proceed
- 11 very charming and attractive
- 14 surface personality
- 15 bad behavior
- 17 clever, intelligent thinking ([print version here](#))

Play A Game!
Find the answers on P1



How much do you know about rabbits? Here's a Rabbit Quiz to start the New Year off with.

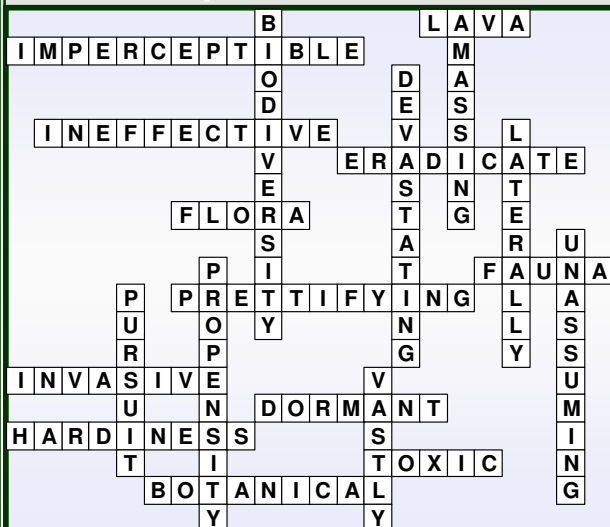
1. What kind of sound do rabbits make when they are happy?
2. How do they make that sound?
3. What vegetable isn't part of a rabbit's normal diet?
4. What do we call a baby rabbit?
5. How high can an average rabbit jump?
6. When a rabbit is very happy, it will hop and twist in the air. What is this called?



7. In the wild, rabbits live in ____?
8. What is a female rabbit called?
9. Rabbit's teeth ____?
10. What is a male rabbit called?

Choose your answers here:

1. They: a) purr like a cat; b) bark like a dog; c) grunt like a pig.
2. a) exhale air; b) grind their teeth; c) thump their feet.
3. a) hay; b) lettuce; c) carrot.
4. a) a pup; b) a joey; c) a kit.
5. a) 50cm; b) 90cm; c) 120cm.
6. a) flip; b) joust; c) binky.
7. a) dens; b) tunnels; c) warrens.
8. a) a sow; b) a doe; c) a fawn.
9. a) never stop growing; b) can break easily; c) fall out and are replaced when they are young.
10. a) a buck; b) a stag; c) bobby.



Last Month's puzzle Solution

ACROSS

- 2 produced by volcanoes
- 4 impossible to detect
- 6 useless, hopeless
- 8 remove or destroy completely
- 9 all plant life
- 12 all animal life
- 14 making more beautiful
- 15 penetrate, assault intrude harmfully
- 17 inactive
- 18 being strong, healthy
- 19 poisonous
- 20 relating to plants

DOWN

- 1 variation of plant and animal life
- 3 gathering together
- 5 causing extensive destruction
- 7 to or from the side
- 10 humble, modest
- 11 tendency to do something
- 13 go in search of
- 16 to a great extent



Don't forget... Our SPECIAL 1+1 Campaign offer! Up to 50% off!!

See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.