Be an at-home naturalist! Discover and explore the outdoors with our weekly Critter Card.

**LOOK & LISTEN**

Cottontails are most active between dusk and dawn. Generally silent, rabbits may communicate by soft grunts and purrs, and by thumping the ground with their hind feet. Rabbit scat, or droppings, are round, dark pellets usually in piles.

**Cottontails Everywhere**

When a doe (mother) cottontail is ready to give birth, she digs a shallow hole, or scrape (four inches or less in depth). It’s not unusual to find a nest in a suburban lawn. Litters average five to eight kits (newborns), and one doe may have three litters in a season. Keep in mind, if you find a nest, leave it alone.

**Growing Up**

Kits are two inches long and born blind and deaf—totally helpless. The doe visits the nest two-to-three times a day to nurse her babies. She rests in a nearby scrape. After three-to-four weeks, young rabbits leave the nest to live on their own.

**TRY IT**

A rabbit may freeze if it is startled or approached, and it can hold that position for minutes at a time. Count to three and freeze. Try to hold the position you are in for a whole minute. Was it hard or easy?