



TOPICAL TIDBITS

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Rabbits

This issue is all about rabbits. Enjoy the rabbit facts below (from kidsconnect.com) and then learn about some famous rabbits on the next few pages.

- Rabbits are mammals and belong to the *Lagomorph* order which also includes hares.
- There are over 45 different breeds of rabbits.
- A male rabbit is called buck and a female one is called doe. A baby rabbit is called a kitten or a kit.
- Rabbits are plant-eaters or herbivores.
- Rabbits live in groups called herds and in a home called a warren.
- The average lifespan of a rabbit is between 8 to 10 years.
- Rabbits weigh between 2 to 11 pounds.
- Rabbits have a very good memory.
- Rabbits have long sensitive ears, which can turn in any direction.
- Rabbits can see behind themselves without rotating their heads.
- Rabbits have 28 teeth, which continue to grow throughout its life.
- Rabbits are crepuscular which means they are most active at dawn and dusk.
- When rabbits are happy, they perform a series of jumps, twists and runs.



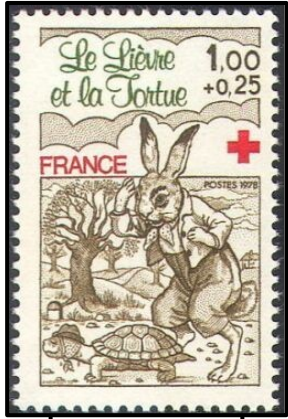
THE TORTOISE AND THE HARE

The fable of *The Tortoise and the Hare* is attributed to Aesop who lived during the sixth century BC in Greece. It tells of a tortoise (tired of being teased for being slow) who challenges a hare to a race. The hare is so confident he will beat the tortoise that halfway through the race he takes a nap. When he wakes up, he sees the tortoise crossing the finish line. The moral of the story is, "Slow and steady wins the race."

DIRECTIONS: Try to match the country name to the correct stamp. You may need to use a stamp identifier. Answers can be found at the bottom of the page.



1. _____



2. _____



3. _____



4. _____



5. _____



6. _____

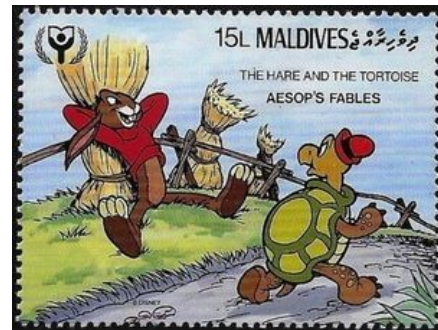


7. _____

- A. Cyprus
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. Greece
- E. Hungary
- F. Maldives
- G. Hong Kong
- H. Sri Lanka
- I. Republic of Dahomey



8. _____



9. _____

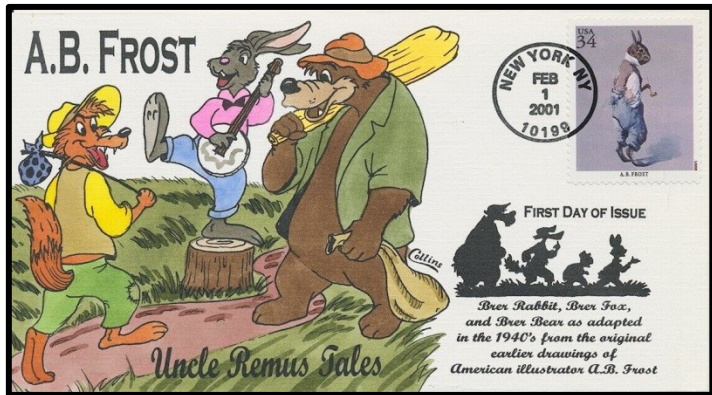
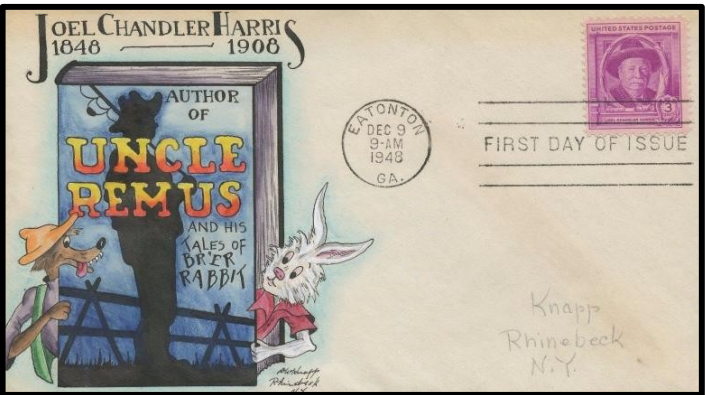
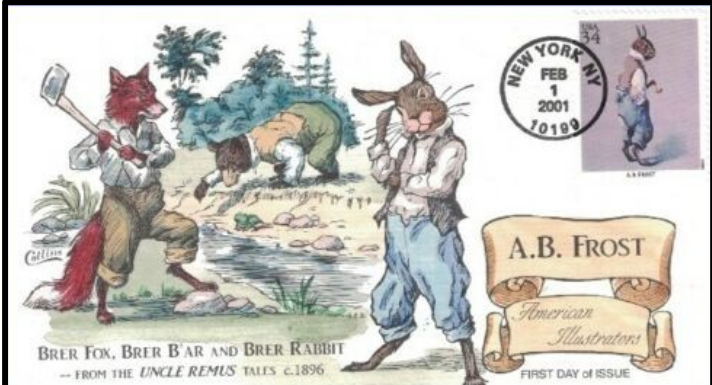
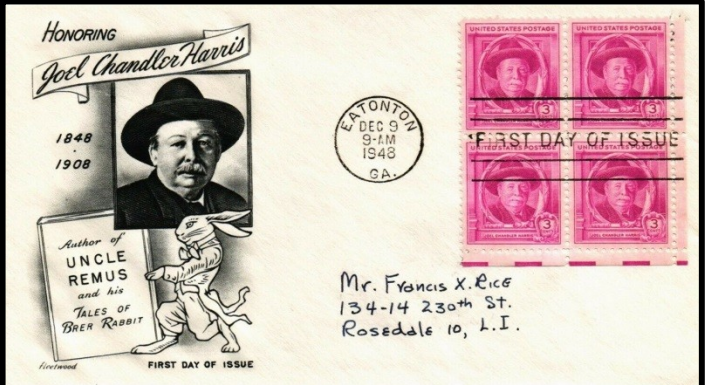
BR'ER RABBIT

Br'er* Rabbit's a pretty smart fellow. He has to use his wits to escape from Br'er Fox and Br'er Bear who are always trying to catch him. Br'er Rabbit always wins!

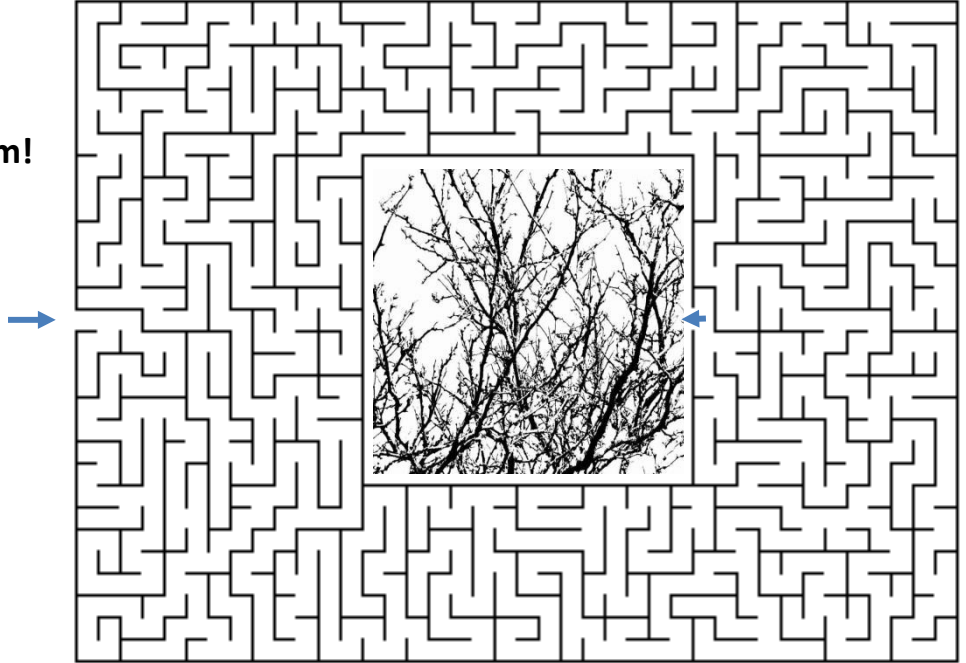
These "trickster" stories were first brought to America by African slaves. Joel Chandler Harris (1845–1908) wrote down and published many of these stories that had been passed down by oral tradition. His nine stories are narrated by a character named Uncle Remus.

The United States Postal Service issued a stamp honoring Harris in 1948. It was part of the *Famous American* series. In 2001, the USPS issued a set of famous American illustrators. One of the stamps is a painting of Br'er Rabbit by A. B. Frost.

*(Br'er is short for *brother*.)

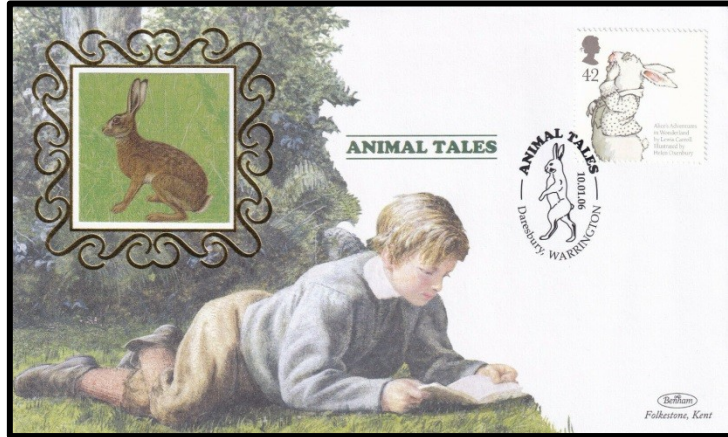


Help Br'er Rabbit get to the briar patch before Br'er Fox catches him!

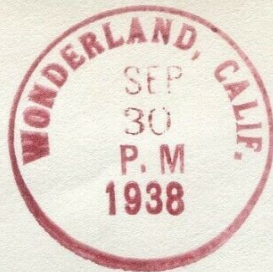
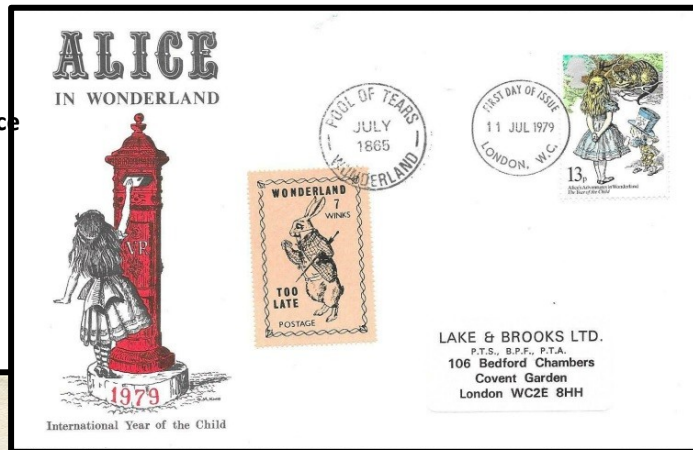


THE WHITE RABBIT

The White Rabbit in *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* leads Alice on a grand chase. She follows him down a rabbit hole and ends up in Wonderland. She chases the rabbit throughout the novel as he constantly rushes from place to place muttering, "I'm late! I'm late!" At the end of the story, we discover that the White Rabbit is actually a herald in the Queen of Heart's court. Lewis Carol wrote this story in 1865.



The souvenir sheet (above) was issued for the birth of England's Prince George and was issued by Turks and Caicos. The stamp (left) and the two covers at the right are from Great Britain. The cover at the lower right has a fantasy (or made up) stamp of the White Rabbit.



JOHN COULTHARD
117 ELM STREET
MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

You can color the cachet (design) on this cover from 1938. Notice the name of the city where it was cancelled!

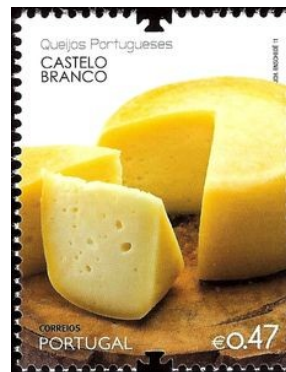
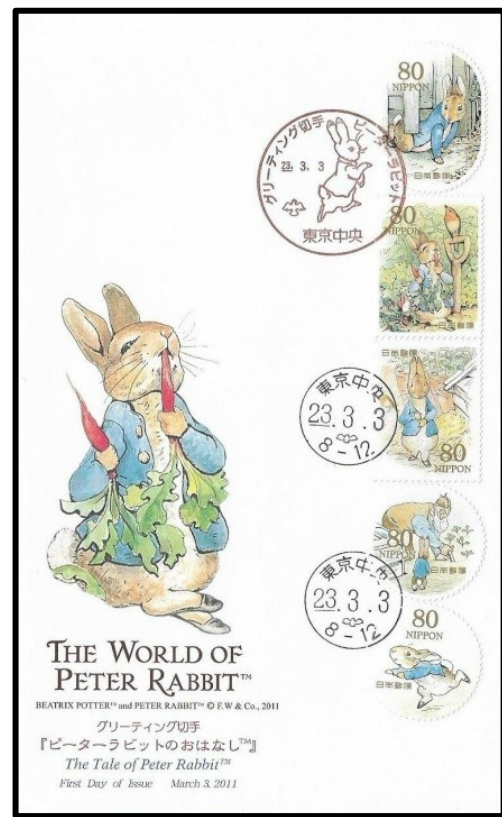
PETER RABBIT

The Tale of Peter Rabbit is a children's book written and illustrated by Beatrix Potter in 1893 for the five-year-old son of her former governess. The story is about a mischievous and disobedient young rabbit, named Peter. He sneaks into the garden of Mr. McGregor who chases him around trying to get rid of him. Peter escapes and returns home to his mother who puts him to bed after giving him chamomile tea. The book has been translated into 36 languages. It has sold 45 million copies sold making it is one of the best-selling books in history.



The stamp (at left) was issued by Great Britain. The cover (at right) is from Japan.

DIRECTIONS: Peter Rabbit loved sneaking into Mr. McGregor's garden. Circle the stamps below that show things he might have found growing in the garden.



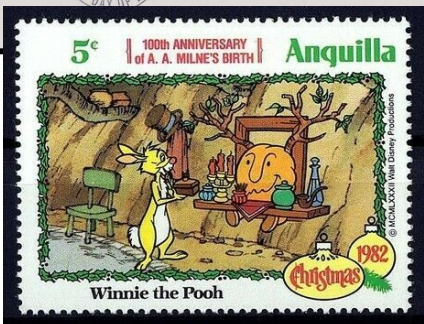
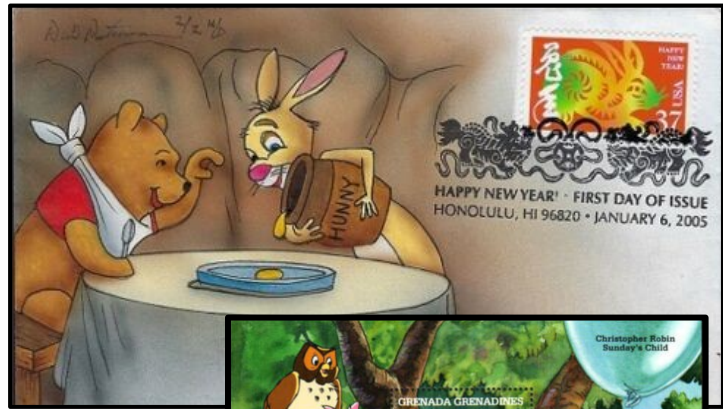
RABBIT AND POOH

The story of *Winnie-the-Pooh* was written by A.A. Milne in 1926 and is based on the stuffed animals of his son, Christopher Robin. Christopher named his teddy bear after a Canadian black bear that he visited often at the London Zoo. This bear, Winnie, was the unofficial mascot of Canadian Lieutenant Harry Colebourn's regiment. The characters of Rabbit and Owl were actually made up by Milne as he wrote the stories. The Disney version of the story added Gopher. Look at the stamps below to see the difference in Rabbit from the book and Rabbit from the Disney film.



These three stamps have illustrations from the book.

This Canadian stamp honors Lieutenant Harry Colebourn and Winnie.



These four items feature Disney's version of Rabbit. Which do you prefer?



Winnie-the-Pooh and Rabbit lived in the Hundred Acre Wood. See how many words you can make using the letters in "The Hundred Acre Wood."

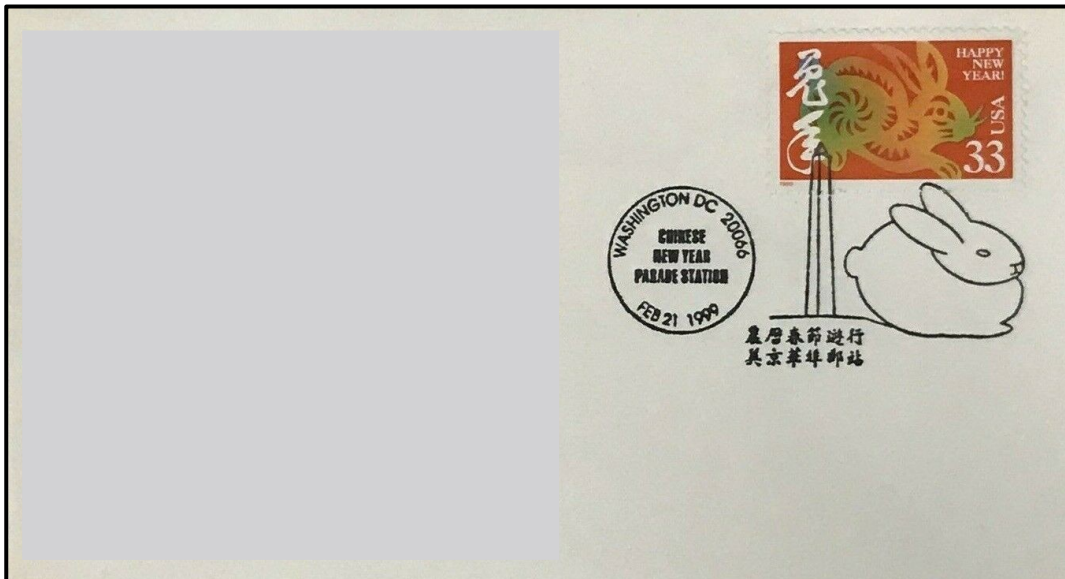
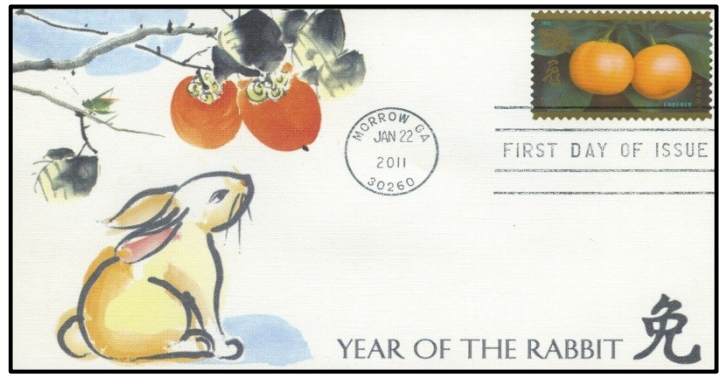
THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD

YEAR OF THE RABBIT

The Chinese Zodiac is based on the cycles of the moon and consists of twelve signs. Because the moon's cycle repeats every 12 years, there are 12 animals in the Chinese horoscope - one for each year of the lunar cycle. These animals are the rat, tiger, ox, dragon, snake, horse, sheep (sometimes a goat), monkey, rooster, dog, pig, and rabbit.

If you were born in 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999, or 2011, you are a rabbit. The rabbit is considered the luckiest of the Chinese zodiac animals. You are affectionate, virtuous and kind. You are sensitive to beauty and aim for peace in your life.

Many countries celebrate Lunar New Year and issue beautiful stamps celebrating this festive holiday. Below are some stamps and covers from past years of the rabbit. Use the blank cover to design your own rabbit cachet.



RABBIT FUN



ARTSY RABBITS

This decoupage rabbit is easy to make from brown stamps. It would look cute on a notebook or trashcan. It's easy to find rabbit outlines on the internet to use as a guide.

Be sure to ask a parent first!

FUNNY RABBITS



Q: What animal is best at math?

A: Rabbits, they multiply fastest!

Q: Did you hear about the rabbit who refused to leave her house?

A: She was having a bad hare day.

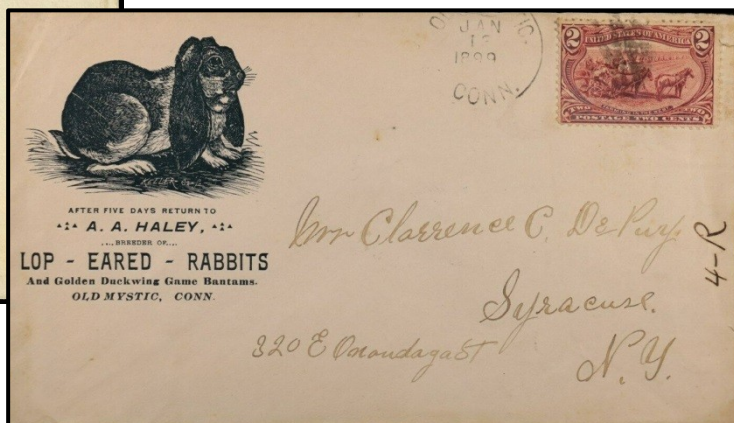
Q: If you have a line of 100 rabbits in a row and 99 of them take one step backwards, what do you have?

A: A receding hare line.

SALES RABBITS



These advertising covers both have rabbit illustrations. The above is for Jack Rabbit Cars and the one to the right is from a rabbit breeder who sold lop-eared rabbits.



MAGIC RABBITS

Pulling a rabbit out of an empty hat is a favorite trick of magicians. In 2018, the USPS issued its first lenticular stamp (at left). When the stamp is tilted the rabbit appears to disappear and reappear in the hat. The optical illusion stamp at the right is from Great Britain, as are the cancels.



Rabbits

