

# 兔子 令人想要拥抱的朋友还是狡猾的骗子？ Rabbits: cuddly friends or cunning tricksters?

Hello. This is 6 Minute English, I'm Neil.

大家好，这里是六分钟英语，我是内尔。

Joining me is Rob.

和我一起的是罗伯。

Hello.

大家好。

Rob, when we think of Easter, what do we think of?

罗伯，当我们想到复活节的时候，你会想到什么？

Chocolate!

巧克力！

Well, yes, chocolate Easter eggs are an obvious symbol of Easter.

嗯，好吧，巧克力复活节彩蛋很显然是复活节的一个象征。

But there is an animal people often associate with Easter...

但是有一种动物经常被人们和复活节联系在一起.....

Rabbits!

兔子！

Cute, adorable and fluffy-what's not to like about a rabbit?

可爱，讨人喜欢又毛茸茸的——有什么理由不喜欢兔子呢？

Well, not everyone is a fan of them-by not a fan of I mean they don't like them.

好吧，不是每个人都对它们感冒——不感冒的意思是它们不喜欢它们。

Some people think they are a pest.

有些人认为它们是一种害虫。

But we'll be telling you more about rabbits shortly.

不过我们稍后会告诉你更多关于兔子的内容。

That's good to know.

这很好呀。

Well, I'll tell you what I am a fan of and that is your quiz questions-so what are you going to ask me today?

嗯，我要告诉你我对什么感冒，那就是你的小问答——所以今天你要问我什么呢？

It's all about wild rabbits.

是跟野生兔子有关的。

添加的词汇



扫码APP内查看  
每日英语听力

In the last rabbit survey in 1995, how many were estimated to exist in the UK?

在1995年的上一次的兔子调查中，英国估计有多少兔子？

Is it a) 370,500, b) 3,750,000, or c) 37,500,000?

是 A. 37万500只，B.375万只，还是 C. 3750万只？

I know rabbits are everywhere in the UK but not 37 million of them-so I'll go for b) 3,750,000. Well, you'll have to wait until the end of the programme to find out.

我知道英国到处都是兔子，但是没有3700万那么多——所以我要选B.375万只。好的，你要等到节目结束的时候才能知道答案。

But you're right when you say rabbits are everywhere in the UK.

但是你说英国到处都是兔子这一点倒是没错。

It's probably true in other countries too.

可能在别的国家也是这样。

You could say they are endemic-meaning very common or strongly established in a place or situation.

你可以说它们是地方性的——意思是在某个地方或情形中很常见或根深蒂固。

But are they a typically British wild animal?

但是它们是典型的英国野生动物吗？

They are now but it's believed they were brought to the country by invaders-some say The Romans, others The Normans.

它们现在是的，但是人们认为它们是被侵略者带到这个国家来的——有的人说是罗马人，其他人说是诺曼人。

But they eventually spread across the UK.

但是它们最终还是遍布英国。

Victoria Dickinson is author of a book called Rabbit and she's been telling the BBC Radio 4 programme Costing The Earth about what helped them spread...

维多利亚·狄金森是一本叫做《兔子》的书的作者，她一直在BBC电台4频道的节目《消费地球》节目中谈论是什么帮助它们繁衍的.....

It was really by the middle of the 17th Century when people really started to think about rabbit as being particularly British...and certainly there were more rabbits in Britain than in the rest of Europe.

确实是在17世纪中期之前人们才开始真正地将兔子看作是英国的产物.....当然那时英国的兔子比欧洲其他国家都多。

And there was a calculation done that there are over 400 villages and towns in Britain with the word 'warren' in their name.

曾经计算过，英国有超过400个村庄和城镇的名字里都带有“兔子窝”这个词。

So the rabbits were raised in Britain but they really kept to their warrens until there was the rise of fox hunting-when their predators disappeared, rabbits do what rabbits do best, and they started to multiply and become wild, feral rabbits throughout the land.

所以兔子是在英国被养大的，并且它们一直都待着它们的兔子窝里，直到猎狐的兴起——当它们的猎食者消失了，兔子就发挥它们的专长，它们的数量急剧增加，并且成为了遍布这片土地的野兔。

So Victoria knows a thing or two about rabbits-and said the word 'warren' used in town and village names, is evidence that they've been in the UK since the mid-17th Century.

所以维多利亚对兔子很了解——她还说“兔子窝”这个词被用在城镇和村庄的名字中是兔子自17世纪中期起就开始存在于英国的证据。

A warren is the area underground where rabbits live with lots of holes and connected passages.

兔子窝指的是兔子在地底下住的地方，有很多洞和连接的走道。

But today we use the word warren to mean a building or part of a town where there are lots of confusing passageways or streets.

但是现在我们使用这个词来描述一个由很多令人困惑的走廊的建筑或有很多令人困惑的街道的城镇的某个部分。

It's a kind of place where you get lost.

这可能是个你会迷路的地方。

But it was rabbit warrens where rabbits would live until hunting, particularly fox hunting, was introduced and that killed many of the rabbit's predators.

但是兔子们一直住在兔子窝里，直到狩猎，尤其是猎狐被引进到英国，而这导致了兔子的猎食者的死亡。

A predator is an animal that hunts and kills another animal.

猎食者指的是捕捉并杀死另一种动物的动物。

Now, Victoria was talking about feral rabbits-so wild rabbits-not the sort people keep as pets in a rabbit hutch.

那么维多利亚刚刚再说野兔——也就是野生兔子——而不是人们在兔笼里养的那种宠物。

Moving on, I'm interested to know why not everyone loves these cute little creatures, I mean, think of the rabbit characters in the Beatrix Potter stories.

接着说，我很想知道为什么不是每个人都爱这些可爱的小生物们，我的意思是，想想毕翠克丝·波特的童话故事中的兔子角色。

Well, they weren't always well behaved.

嗯，它们并没有总是表现得很好。

And Victoria Dickinson spoke to the Costing the Earth programme about this.

维多利亚·狄金森跟《消费地球》节目谈到了这一点。

What word did she use to describe rabbits having the two opposite sides to their character?

她用了什么词来描述兔子的两种相反的性格特征？

The rabbit is a paradoxical animal; it has a lot of faces if you will.

兔子是一种矛盾的动物；请允许我这么说，它有很多张面孔。

It's both wild and tame, it's timid but also has its reputation as trickster rabbit—if you think of Peter Cottontail, or you think of Br'er Rabbits—and I think our relationship with rabbit is the rabbit of the nursery rhyme, the rabbit of childhood or you think of Peter Rabbit.

它既狂野又温顺，它很羞怯，但是也有骗子兔这一称号——如果你想想《棉花尾巴比特》，或者想想《布里兔》——我认为我们跟兔子的关系就是童谣中的兔子，童年的兔子或者你会想到彼得兔。

She said that rabbits are paradoxical animals—that's the word that describes them having two opposing characteristics.

她说兔子是矛盾的动物——这个词描述它们拥有两种相反的性格。

Yes, we think of them as wild, maybe a trickster, someone who deceives people to get what they want.

是的，我们认为他们是狂野的，也许是个骗子，欺骗人们来得到他们想要的东西的人。

Like Peter—what a cheeky rabbit!

比如说彼得兔——多么放肆的兔子啊！

But we also think of rabbits as tame—we have nursery rhymes about them, kids have soft cuddly rabbit toys.

但是我们也认为兔子是温顺的——我们有关于它们的童谣，孩子们有柔软的令人想要拥抱的兔子玩具。

I say that they're the perfect symbol for Easter.

我说它们就是复活节的完美象征。

OK, Rob, if you say so.

好的，罗伯，如果你要这么说的话。

But now let me answer the question I set you earlier.

但是现在请让我回答我之前问你的问题。

In the last survey of rabbits in 1995, how many were estimated to exist in the UK?

在1995年的上一次的兔子调查中，英国估计有多少只兔子？

Was it a) 370,500, b) 3,750,000, or c) 37,500,000?

是 A. 37万500只，B. 375万只，还是 C. 3750万只？

Rob, what did you say?

罗伯，你说的什么？

I said b) 3,750,000. Well, you're wrong, Rob!

我说的是 B. 375万只。嗯，你答错了，罗伯！

A government survey put the population in the UK at 37.5 million—so a lot more.

一项政府的调查表示英国的兔子数量是3750万只——所以要得多得多。

But despite its reputation, a recent survey suggests rabbit numbers in the UK have declined by around 60 per cent over the last 20 years.

但是尽管它以数量多著称，最近的一项调查表明英国的兔子数量在过去的20年里减少了大约60%。

That is sad news.

这真是个悲伤的消息。

But let's cheer ourselves up with a recap of the vocabulary we've discussed today, starting with a fan of.

但是我们用回顾今天讨论的单词来让我们振奋起来吧，先从对.....感冒开始。

When someone is a fan of something, they are keen on it, they like it a lot.

如果某人对某物感冒，那么他们喜爱它，他们非常喜欢它。

If you're not a fan of something-you don't like it.

如果你对某物不感冒——那么你不喜欢它。

We mentioned endemic-meaning very common or strongly established in a place or situation.

我们提到了地方性的——意思说是在某个地方或情形中很常见或根深蒂固。

And we talked about a warren-an underground area where rabbits live, but also a building or a part of a town where there are lots of confusing passageways or streets where it is easy to get lost.

我们还谈论了兔子窝——兔子们地下的住所，但是也可以指有很多令人困惑的走道的建筑或有很多令人困惑的街道的城镇的一部分，在那里很容易迷路。

A predator is an animal that hunts and kills another animal.

猎食者是捕杀另一种动物的动物。

Paradoxical describes things that have two opposing characteristics making it hard to understand.

矛盾的描述的是具有两种相反特征从而使其难以理解的东西。

And a trickster is someone who deceives people to get what they want.

骗子指的是欺骗人们来获得他们想要的东西的人。

Well, I'm no trickster, it really has been six minutes, so it's time to call it a day.

嗯，我不是个骗子，真的过了六分钟了，所以是时候结束了。

Please join us next time.

请收听我们的下期节目。

Bye for now.

再见了。

Goodbye!

再见！