

# POP INSIDE ANIMAL HOMES

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With  
pop-ups  
& flaps!

# Weaverbirds

On the plains of Africa, a noisy group of birds weave their nests from strands of knotted grass. They are the only birds in the world that can tie knots! Hanging high in a tree, the nests are out of danger's way, and are sure to impress a mate.

Females carefully inspect the nests before choosing a partner and moving in. They prefer the best builders, as they will make good fathers. Which nest do you think looks the best?

## Colony

Lots of birds build their nests in the same tree. The group of birds is called a colony.

## Laying eggs

The female lines the nest with feathers and grasses, then lays up to three eggs. She sits on them for two weeks, keeping them warm until they hatch.

## A room with a view

Nests are usually built in trees overhanging a river or pond.

## Get out!

Sometimes cuckoos try to lay their eggs in a weaverbird's nest, so the smaller bird will look after their babies for them. Go away, cuckoo!

## Decorating tips

Males use fresh, new leaves as they are flexible and are most likely to attract a female.

## Practice makes perfect

It can take young males a few seasons to get the hang of nest-building! They'll get there in the end...

## Keep going

Males mate several times each season and can build 25 nests every year!

## Flying the nest

At last, the little birds are ready to leave home and fly out into the world. Soon they will be building nests of their own.



# Rabbits

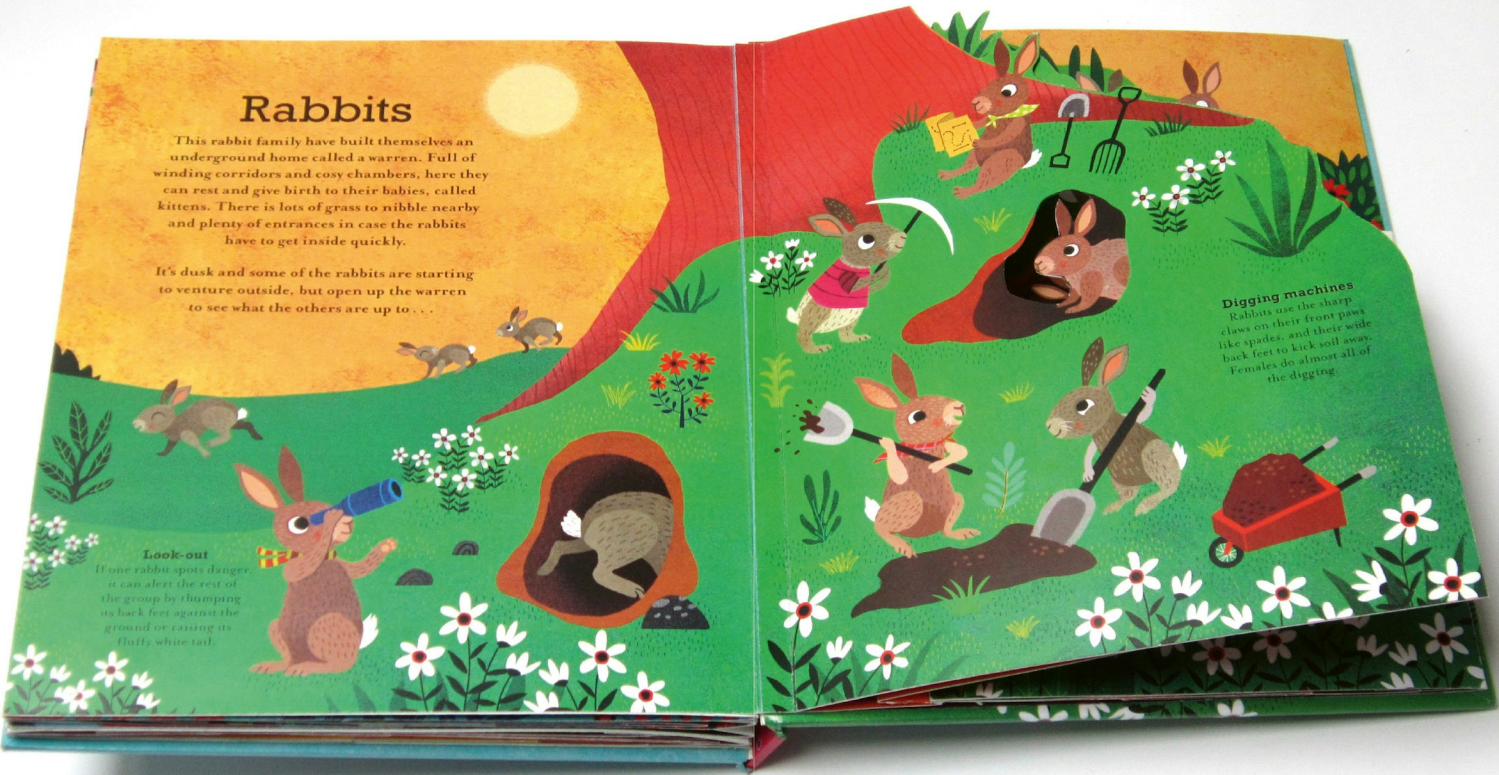
This rabbit family have built themselves an underground home called a warren. Full of winding corridors and cosy chambers, here they can rest and give birth to their babies, called kittens. There is lots of grass to nibble nearby and plenty of entrances in case the rabbits have to get inside quickly.

It's dusk and some of the rabbits are starting to venture outside, but open up the warren to see what the others are up to . . .

## Look-out

If one rabbit spots danger, it can alert the rest of the group by thumping its back feet against the ground or raising its fluffy white tail.

**Digging machines**  
Rabbits use the sharp claws on their front paws like spades, and their wide back feet to kick soil away. Females do almost all of the digging.



### Look-out!

If one of the group finds a predator, it can alert the rest of the group by thumping its back down against the ground or raising its fluffy white tail.

### Meeting

When a rabbit is hungry, it will look for food. It will also look for a mate. Rabbits are social animals and like to live in groups. They will meet and talk to each other.

### Exploring

Rabbits are curious animals and like to explore their surroundings. They will dig up roots and plants to eat. They will also dig up to make a burrow.

### Rabbit romance

When a rabbit is ready to mate, it will make a sound called a thump. This is a way of saying 'I'm ready!' to the other rabbit.

### Social circle

There are lots of animals that live in groups called social circles. Rabbits are one of them. They like to live with other rabbits and play together. They will also help each other when they are young.

### Keeping clean

Rabbits are really neat animals. They like to clean themselves with their paws. Sometimes they even help each other clean their bodies to reach places like behind the ears.

### Baby born

When a rabbit is ready to have babies, it will dig a hole in the ground. This hole is called a warren. The rabbit will stay in the warren until the babies are born. The babies are called kits.

### Quick escape

Rabbits are very fast animals. They can run very quickly. This means they can escape if a predator is chasing them. They can also hide in their burrows.

### Rabbit fighting

When two rabbits fight, they will use their teeth to bite each other. They will also use their paws to scratch each other. Rabbits will only fight if they are really angry.

