

ALL ABOUT SNOWSHOE HARES

Reading Comprehension

Snowshoe Hares are small mammals that live in the boreal forests of North America. They are known for their large, furry hind feet that help them move easily across deep snow, much like snowshoes for humans. These wide feet allow the hares to escape predators quickly, even in harsh winter conditions.

Snowshoe hares have a special ability to change the color of their fur with the seasons. In the winter, their fur turns white, blending in with the snow, and in the summer, it turns brown to match the forest floor. This camouflage helps protect them from predators like lynx, foxes, and owls.

Snowshoe hares are herbivores and feed on plants, leaves, and twigs. In the winter, when food is scarce, they rely on tree bark and small branches to survive. They are most active at night, a behavior known as being nocturnal, which helps them avoid predators during the day. Snowshoe hares are an important part of the boreal forest ecosystem. They provide food for many predators and play a key role in keeping plant populations in balance by eating vegetation.



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Comprehension Questions

- 1** What special feature helps snowshoe hares move across deep snow?
- 2** How do snowshoe hares protect themselves from predators?
- 3** What do snowshoe hares eat in the winter?
- 4** When are snowshoe hares most active?
- 5** Why are snowshoe hares important to the boreal forest ecosystem?



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Answer Key

1

What special feature helps snowshoe hares move across deep snow?

Snowshoe hares have large, furry hind feet that help them move across deep snow.

2

How do snowshoe hares protect themselves from predators?

Snowshoe hares protect themselves from predators by changing their fur color to blend in with their environment.

3

What do snowshoe hares eat in the winter?

In the winter, snowshoe hares eat tree bark and small branches when food is scarce.

4

When are snowshoe hares most active?

Snowshoe hares are most active at night because they are nocturnal.

5

Why are snowshoe hares important to the boreal forest ecosystem?

Snowshoe hares are important to the boreal forest ecosystem because they provide food for predators and help control plant populations.

