

Activity Plan

Pet budget

ACTIVITY LOCATION:

- Anywhere

YOU WILL NEED:

- **Pet budget** worksheet
- **Pet budget** answers
- Pens or pencils
- Calculators
- Access to the Internet
- Pictures of rabbits (or, if the activity is taking place in a Pets at Home store, a real rabbit in its living enclosure)
- **The 5 Welfare Needs** ([click here](#) to download a version for the wall, or [here](#) for individual cards to hand out)

PREPARATION

To enable the children to complete the entire activity during a one-hour session, collect leaflets about rabbit care, or download and print information from petsathome.com or rspca.org.uk/rabbits.

Introduction

10 MINUTES

Give the children a few minutes to look at pictures of rabbits or, better still, a real rabbit. Ask what they know about rabbits in the wild. What do they eat? What else do they (and all animals) need? Where do they live? Do they live alone or in groups? How do they behave? Ask what rabbits do most of the time. Discuss why they spend so much time eating. (They eat a lot of plants to get the energy they need and to keep their bodies healthy.)

Activity

35 MINUTES

Give each group of children a copy of **The 5 Welfare Needs** and tell them that anyone who keeps animals should provide all these. Explain that their task is to find out how to do this for rabbits, and approximately how much it would cost.

In a discussion, ask the children how they would meet The 5 Welfare Needs for rabbits. To guide them towards the list on the worksheet **Pet budget**, remind them that they need to:

- Keep the rabbits' environment comfortable, clean and safe
- Provide appropriate food and clean water
- Give the rabbits plenty to do so they don't get bored, and can behave normally
- Plan for any illness or injury

Hand out the worksheet **Pet budget**. Read the introduction about Rani and Rishi, and ask the children to

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complete the chart, working in pairs. They should use the Pets at Home website to research the prices of the items, then work out how many of each item they need per year, and what the cost will be per year.

They should then add these to find the total cost per year and write it in the space provided.

Ask how many weeks there are in a year and what kind of calculation to do to find out the cost per week.

Ask why Rani and Rishi want two rabbits, rather than one. (Rabbits don't like to live alone.) A male and female would be good together but should be neutered, so Rani and Rishi would have to ask someone to pay for that, unless they save up first.

Discussion

15 MINUTES

Ask the children whether Rani and Rishi can afford to keep two rabbits. How can they make sure they have enough money for the weeks when they might have to buy more than one item, if these come to more than £10? What can they do if everything comes to more than £10 when they first get the rabbits? For example, they could start saving beforehand; ask their parents for some pocket money in advance; or they might find a way to earn the money.

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Science (KS2)
- Citizenship (KS2)
- English (KS2)
- Maths (KS2)



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