

Snowshoe Hare Camouflage

Make paper snowshoe hares with summer and winter coats!



Materials Needed:

Snowshoe Hare template (or draw your own), scissors, brown or gray crayons, glue. *Optional:* Cotton balls.

Instructions:

Step 1: Cut out the paper snowshoe hare outlines.

Step 2: Color the top two snowshoe hares brown or gray. These will be the summer coats. Leave the bottom two hares white; these will be the winter coats.



Step 3: Glue matching shapes of snowshoe hares to each other so that one side is white and the other side is brown or gray. *Optional:* Glue a cotton ball to each side for a tail.

Step 4: Play with the little snowshoe hares. Find places where they are best camouflaged against the background, either in their summer (brown or gray) or winter (white) coats.



Why do you think some animals change colors in different seasons?

Can you think of other animals that change colors?



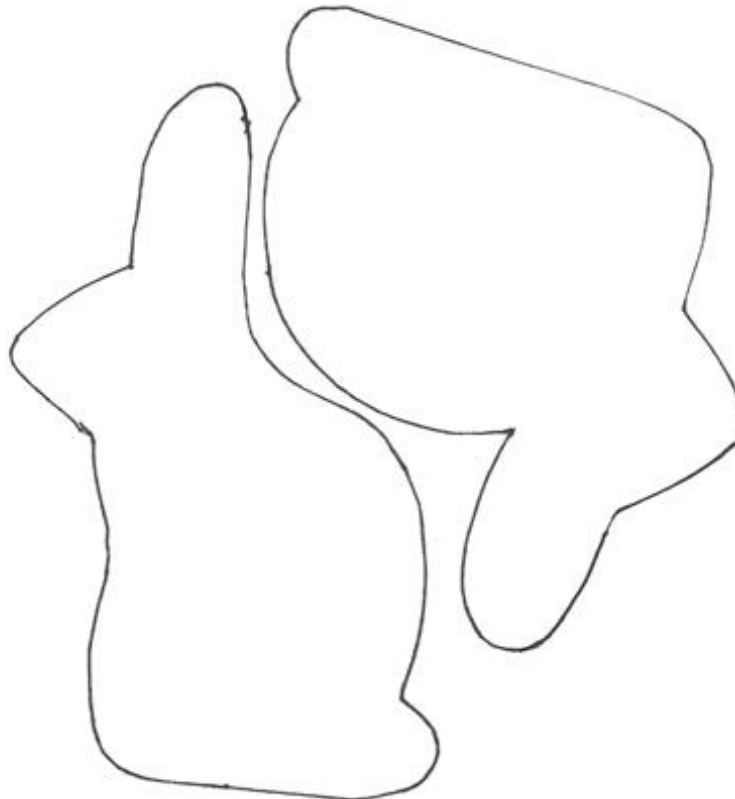
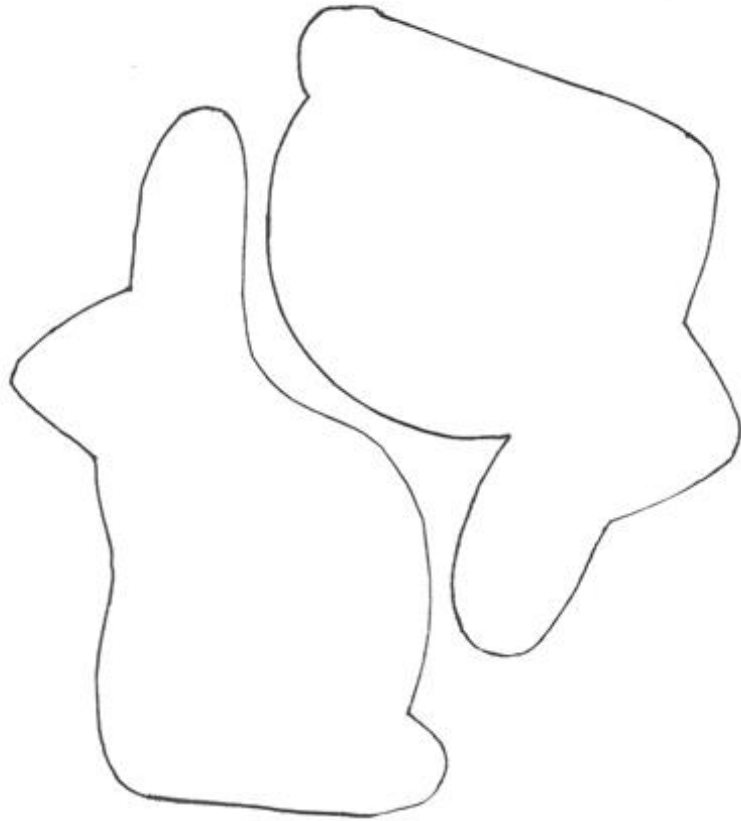
Take a walk outdoors! Snowshoe hares are well camouflaged and hard to spot, but you may be able to find signs that they were active. In the winter, look out for tracks in the snow or pellets near tall shrubs.

Snowshoe Hare Template

Print or trace
snowshoe hare
outlines, and cut
out.

Color the top two
snowshoe hares
brown or gray.
Leave the bottom
two white.

Glue matching
shapes of
snowshoe hares to
each other.



Seasonal Color Changes

Many Arctic animals, including snowshoe hares, ptarmigan, arctic fox, and weasels, change colors when the seasons change. In the summer, their fur or feathers are shades of brown, and in winter they change to white. Their winter coats keep them warmer and allow them to stay camouflaged in snow to hunt for food or hide from predators.

Snowshoe Hare (*Lepus americanus*)



Short-tailed Weasel (*Mustela erminea*)



Arctic Fox (*Vulpes lagopus*)



Rock Ptarmigan (*Lagopus muta*)



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