

## *Natural Selection of the Easter Bunny*

### Introduction:

Easter Bunnies are only found on Cottontail Island. One way in which they are different from all other rabbits is that they lay eggs much like a Duckbill platypus. Unlike the platypus, Easter Bunny eggs contain chocolate and have very colorful designs. Like all bunnies, they are herbivores (plant eaters).

### Limits to population growth:

Dogs are their chief predator. They will eat both bunnies and their eggs. The chocolate in the eggs is poisonous to dogs. If an egg contains enough chocolate, the dog may become very sick or even die. Hatched bunnies escape by running away from the dogs.

### Problems:

1. Explain how the bunny population will change (evolve) over time. Use the terms *overproduction*, *struggle for survival*, *variation*, and *selection by the environment* in your answer.
2. Recently, humans arrived on Cottontail Island. Needless to say, every spring they go out collecting Easter Bunny eggs. Using the same terms, explain how the bunny population can adapt to this change in the environment.
3. What effect does the amount of variation have on the ability of a population to adapt to a change in environment?