



The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse



An Aesop's Fable

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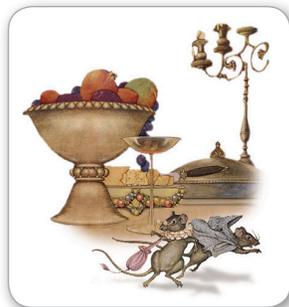
Watch and listen
to the story.
Click here ▼



Storynory

<https://www.storynory.com/the-town-mouse-and-the-country-mouse/>

or read it online.
Click here ▼



<http://www.read.gov/aesop/004.html>

THE STORY

A proud town mouse visits his family member in the country. The humble country mouse offers the city mouse a meal of simple food. The visitor enjoys it, but invites the country mouse back to the city for a taste of “the fine life.” They find a delicious feast on the table and begin eating, but a cat arrives which forces the rodents to abandon their meal and scurry to safety. After this, the country mouse decides to return home, preferring the safety of his country home.

AESOP'S FABLES

Many **fables** are attributed to Aesop, who is believed to have lived in ancient Greece between 620 and 560 BC. A fable is a fictional story that features animals, mythical creatures, plants, inanimate objects or forces of nature. These are **anthropomorphized** (given human qualities), and the story illustrates or leads to a moral lesson.

See all the fables at the U.S. Library of Congress:
<http://www.read.gov/aesop/001.html>

NOTE TO PARENTS:

Information for parents and more links are on the last page.

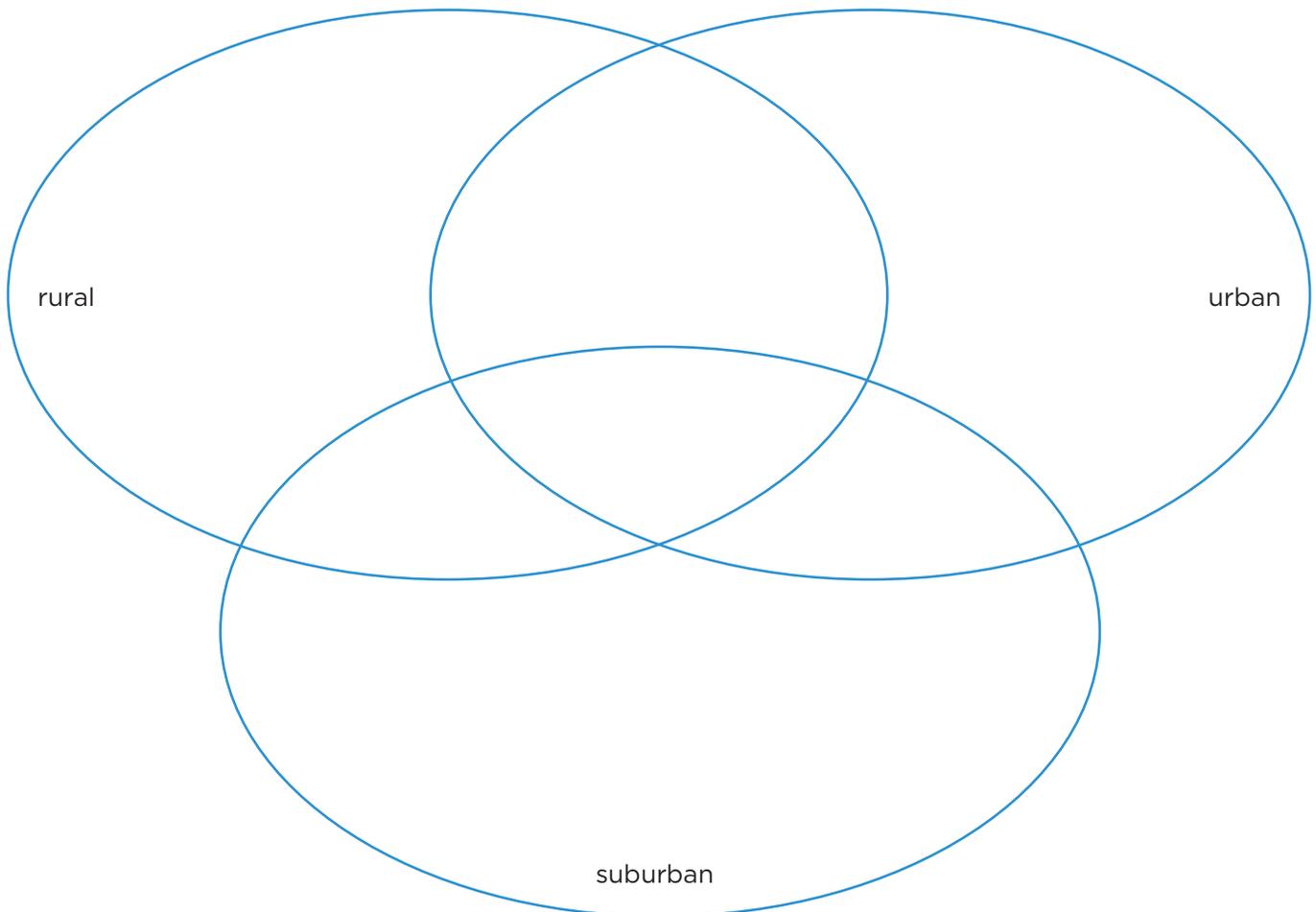
The Setting

2. **“The Town” and “The Country”** Read the description below, then identify similarities and differences between the three places. In what ways are they different? In what ways are they the same?

rural: The homes in rural communities are separated by farms, woodlands, and meadows. People living in rural communities usually have to drive into a suburban community to do their shopping at stores. Rural communities are very quiet places.

urban: Urban communities include cities. They have more apartment buildings than houses, many office buildings, skyscrapers, stores, and lots of people. They also have cars, subways, buses and other forms of public transportation. Urban communities are very busy places.

suburban: Suburban communities are usually located near urban communities or cities. They are towns where people live in homes or apartment buildings. There are stores in these communities to meet the needs of the residents, but no large skyscrapers. Some people living in suburban communities drive to the cities to work.



Make a Book



<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Uncle Town Mouse invites Country Mouse to his home in the city to feast on delicious new foods.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Country Mouse dives into a custard tart and eats truffles and gorgonzola cheese.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Country Mouse hides for cover when a cat pounces on the table.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Country Mouse travels with his uncle to the city, and is truly impressed by his 4-story house!</p>

Make a Book



<p data-bbox="224 1150 727 1213">The maid tries to squash the mice with a broom.</p>	<p data-bbox="850 1129 1435 1222">The mice closely escape and Country Mouse realizes city life may be “a little too exciting” for him!</p>
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4. Similes are fun figures of speech that compare two unlike things using the word “like”.
For example, “Their cheeks are like roses!” is a good simile.

Come up with three conclusions to each simile:

“I feel like I could sleep like a... _____ (*what’s something that sleeps a lot?*)”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

“When we get to the town we are gonna eat like _____ (*what’s something that eats a lot?*)”

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Use the following phrases to create similes of your own- they can be serious or silly! Draw a line to connect a word on the left to a word on the right.

fast <input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> ox
strong <input type="radio"/>	<i>like a</i>	<input type="radio"/> peacock
intelligent <input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> elephant
stylish <input type="radio"/>		<input type="radio"/> cheetah

Think about your own best character trait. If someone were to describe you using a simile, what might they say? (For example, “smart as a whip” or “quick like lightning”)

1. _____
2. _____

Using Maps

5. Population Maps — In the story *The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse*, each character learns that they love the place they call home.

Use this online population map to discuss and answer the following questions:

<https://www.mapsofworld.com/usa/thematic-maps/usa-population-map.html>



1. Use the Population by State map. First, just look at the map image. In your opinion, what part of the United States seems to have the most population density - the South, West, Midwest, Northeast? _____
2. Next, scroll down, and at the bottom you'll find the regions. Were you correct?
3. What top five states are the most populated?

4. What three states are the least populated?



5. Which state is more densely populated, New York or Florida? _____

6. Explain why you think Alaska is sparsely populated.

Rodents

What are Rodents?

Did you know there are more species of rodent than any other animal group in the world? **Nearly 40 percent of all mammal species are rodents!** Well-known rodents include rats, mice, squirrels, prairie dogs, chipmunks, porcupines, beavers, guinea pigs, hamsters, gerbils, chinchillas, and capybaras.

Rodents have many special features! All rodents have one pair of upper and lower chisel-shaped incisor teeth. These teeth grow all the time, or **continuously**. That's why rodents **gnaw**; they need to erode their teeth to stop them from getting too long. As a rodent gnaws, the backs of the teeth wear away to create a sharp edge - so sharp a rodent can literally chew down trees!

Most rodents, but not all, have four toes on the front feet and five toes on the back feet. Most rodents are **nocturnal**. Rodents are smart; did you know rats can be taught tricks? Rodents can live in underground tunnels or up in trees, and they have lots of natural predators.

Rodents, as a group, are very active and must eat a large amount of food. Most rodents are **herbivores**, meaning they eat plants, nuts, and seeds. During the winter when food is scarce, some rodents **hibernate**. Others store food and wake from a deep sleep to eat from time to time.

TERMS TO KNOW

Continuous - all the time

Gnaw - to chew as to wear away at

Nocturnal - awake and active at night

Herbivore - plant eater

Hibernate - sleep through the winter

6. Circle the animals that are rodents:

beaver

porcupine

mole

gerbil

hedgehog

squirrel

shrew

chipmunk

hamster

opossum



CURIOUS? Why do mice have whiskers?

A mouse has movable whiskers on each side of its nose. Whiskers are more than twice as thick as ordinary hairs. Whisker roots are deeper than hair roots. Richly supplied with nerve endings, whiskers give mice information about air movements, air pressure, food and anything they touch. Whiskers are extremely sensitive because they are closely connected to the nervous system.

The scientific word for whiskers is vibrissae. Vibrissae are receptive to vibrations in air currents. Whiskers vibrate as the air moves. Mice get messages from these vibrations to sense the presence, size, and shape of anything without seeing or touching it. Mice seem to be moving their whiskers most of the time. Mice have poor eyesight so their whiskers help to protect them.

7. **Find the words!** Circle or highlight the words from the key to the right.

Town Mouse Country Mouse

S R J P Q M B Y W U L S A V X
R D O V D Q J N A S C S N Q R
E P T D Y Z I L X V O I I C D
K K V O E R S L S N U M O J R
S Z A S T N Z F S U N I K G W
I P C K D R T P J L T L N V A
H P A W Y Y A E O U R A W S G
W O T Y I M U V K K Y R O J A
T H I X D I F F E R E N T Y I
B A O C H N F A C L M V T Z G
M E N R V O K W S A M I W P P
Y O F T T I P F O W C T F B K
E T P K X U K C Y J J S Y O Y
G P R X X A B J Y D A T Q U Q
J E H J L E S U O M S X G W Z

MOUSE
TOWN
CITY
COUNTRY
RODENT
WHISKERS
VACATION
TRAVEL
SIMILAR
DIFFERENT

#3 Book sequence

1. Country Mouse is visited by Uncle Town Mouse
2. "Just the ticket! Exactly what I wanted!" Uncle Town Mouse says about a cheddar cheese dinner.
3. Uncle Town Mouse describes the amazing wonders of city life.
4. Uncle Town Mouse sleeps in the hedgerow.
5. Uncle Town Mouse invites Country Mouse to his home in the city to feast on delicious new foods.
6. Country Mouse travels with his uncle to the city and is truly impressed by his 4-story high house.
7. Country Mouse dives into a custard tart and eats truffles and gorgonzola cheese.
8. Country Mouse hides for cover when a cat pounces on the table.
9. The maid tries to squash the mice with a broom.
10. The mice closely escape and Country Mouse realizes city life may be "a little too exciting" for him!

#6 Rodents

- beaver
- porcupine
- gerbil
- squirrel
- chipmunk
- hamster

#7 Word Search



#8 Word Scramble

- rodent
- fable
- relative
- friends
- burrow
- mansion
- fancy
- simple

Hidden message: town mouse country mouse

More



Online learning extensions:

Mouse Concentration: An Online Matching Game

https://www.janbrett.com/piggybacks/mouse_concentration.htm

Aesop's Fables: The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse

<https://etc.usf.edu/lit2go/35/aesops-fables/680/the-town-mouse-and-the-country-mouse/>

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About Virginia Rep, a trusted educational resource

Education has been a cornerstone of our organization — since its founding as Theatre IV in 1975 through today. Virginia Rep is committed to exploring and expanding the ways in which theatre can positively impact education and children's health. Each year, we tour plays and musicals to hundreds of schools and public venues in Virginia and across the country, reaching children in grades K-12. We provide study guides for educators to use in classrooms for all these plays. With an expanding repertoire of over 30 plays, we have quite a library of study guides.

About this activity guide

We have created a series of At-Home Activities for parents to use as a home learning resource, referencing the study guides we create for educators to use with our plays. Though most of the activities do not require knowing the story, online resources are provided so children can read or hear the stories. Many activities are meant to be printed out, but many can also be done without printing.

This At-Home Activities Guide is produced in support of the following Virginia Standards of Learning: Language Arts, Social Sciences, English, Music.