

This artwork shows how *Nuralagus rex* would compare with today's rabbits.

Funny Bunny

Experts find the world's largest rabbit species.



Researchers' latest discovery is way too big to fit in a magician's hat!

Scientists on the bunny trail recently uncovered fossils of the largest known rabbit species. The creature is named *Nuralagus* (nuh-RA-luh-guhss) *rex*. The bulky bunny tipped the scales at more than 26 pounds. That's about six times the size of today's cottontails.



Researchers found the fossils on Minorca. That island is part of Spain. The rabbit lived about 3 million to 5 million years ago.

The bunny may have roamed the island, but it probably didn't hop. While today's rabbits are light on their feet, *Nuralagus rex* had small hind legs and a short, stiff spine. Those features would have made jumping hard, expert Josep Quintana told *WR News*. He helped uncover the fossils.

What else set the bunny apart from its relatives? The creature's eyes and ears were small for its stature, or size. Why? *Nuralagus rex* didn't have any predators on

Minorca. The rabbit shared the island with dormice, bats, and tortoises.

The animal didn't need sharp hearing and sight to detect enemies, scientists say, so its ears and eyes got smaller over time.

Quintana plans to continue to study the fossils to learn more about the bunny. The find reminds him of another "wacky wabbit." He explains, "*Nuralagus rex* was similar to Bugs Bunny [because] he was so big and so different compared with other rabbits."

MAILBAG



Should parents go to jail for missing school meetings? Here's what you had to say.

I do not think that parents should go to jail for [missing] meetings. ... If the information was really that important, then the teacher could send them an e-mail or a letter.
—Randi V., Michigan

Parents should be threatened with jail time. Meeting [with] your child's teacher or talking to them once a year is not unreasonable.
—Brandy, Virginia

I do not think that parents should go to jail for missing school meetings. Instead, I think they should have to volunteer at the school for three days [so] they can help the school and the kids at the same time.
—Alaina N., Florida

I do not think parents should go to jail, [but they] should attend [school] meetings. ... It shows the child ... how important it is to attend school and get good grades!
—Keisha J., New York

Thank you for reading WR News this school year. Have a great summer!

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

This two-headed tortoise is snapping up a ton of attention. Magdalena, an African spurred tortoise, hatched recently in Slovakia. That is a country in eastern Europe. Two heads aren't always better than one, though. Scientists say Magdalena most likely wouldn't have survived if she had hatched in the wild.



Bunny: Meike Kahler/ICP; Map: Leigh Haeger; Turtle: AFP/Getty Images