



Philosophy
Circles

Tame or Wild?

An enquiry that begins on a small scale and can lead to wider questions about freedom.



A good starting activity to introduce the concepts in an easy, accessible way by setting up a line of chairs on the carpet.

If you would prefer to be a wild rabbit, sit on this side. If you'd prefer to be a tame rabbit, sit on that side.

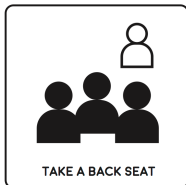
Go from side to side interviewing rabbits, with an invisible microphone, on why they like being wild/tame.

Add a couple of twists: Firstly, that there is a small gap in the wire, do any of them wish to change sides? Second, the tame rabbits are actually in a rabbit farm - Do they want to change their minds now?



This enquiry works best when the Y-question is formed organically from what is said in the opening period. For example, one girl once said she would rather be wild as she could go on an adventure. This formed the questions 'What is an adventure? Can you still have an adventure if you stay at home?' Within moments, pupils have gone from acting as wild or tame rabbits, to deconstructing a rich and tricky concept.

Listen out for reasons containing these themes, and consider running with a question from it:



Adventure:

What is an adventure?
Can you have an adventure if you stay at home?
Does an adventure need danger?
Can something be scary but not dangerous?
Are humans more adventures than animals?

Freedom:

Is freedom always a good thing?
Can you have too much freedom?

Pets:

Should some animals never be kept as pets?
Can any animal be a pet?

Risk:

When should you take risks?
When is a risk worth taking?

NEXT STEPS

What if invading aliens wanted to keep us as pets – how would they convince the aliens it was a bad idea?