

Badger Basics 1:

Getting to know us!



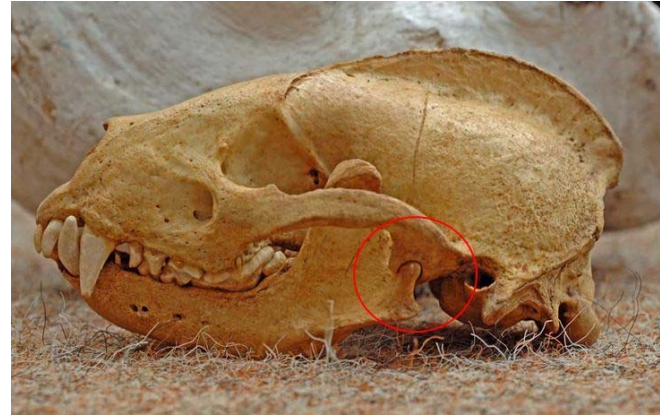
The Latin name for badger is **MELES MELES**

The Gaelic name for badger is **BROCHLACH**

The French name for badger is **Blaireau**

The Welsh name for badger is **Moch Daear**

- Badgers appear in myth and legend as being animals of strength and character.
- Badgers have a white face with two black stripes that act as a **WARNING** to predators.
- They have padded feet with 5 toes on each foot. The front feet are **LARGER** than the rear.
- Badgers can climb trees and despite their short legs can run **FAST**.
- They have a ridge on their skull called a **SAGITTAL** crest. If you look closely at the picture of the skull you will notice that the jaw is connected to the skull



How would the jaw being connected help the badger?

- Badgers are **MAMMALS** and are a member of the **WEASEL** (Mustelid) family, the same family as otters, pine martens, weasels and stoats.
- They can live between 7-10 years

Did you know?

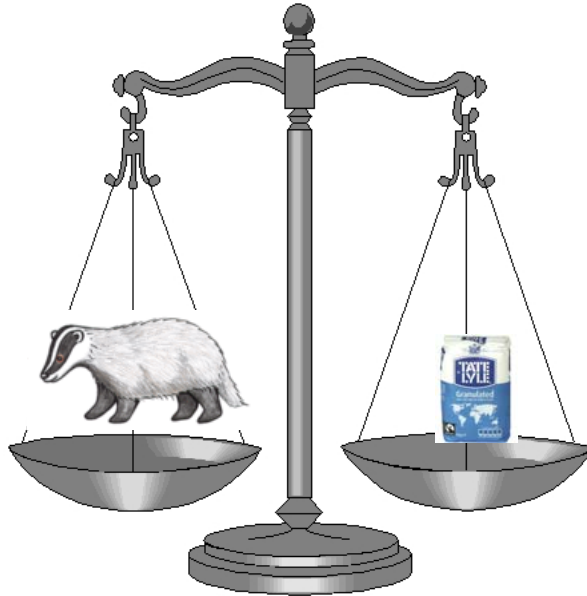
A badger can block its nostrils, making them perfectly designed to cope with digging.

- Badgers are **NOCTURNAL**; they only come out at night although in some remote areas they have been spotted during the day.

21kg was the largest badger recorded in Scotland

- The male badger is called a **BOAR** and the female is called a **SOW**. Young badgers are called **CUBS**.
- Badgers can grow up to 1 metre long, and weigh 11kg

How many bags of sugar will it take to equal the same weight as a badger?



Dinner Time

Badgers are **OMNIVORES**.

This means that they eat a range of different foods, just like us.



What is your favourite food?

Can you guess what a badger's favourite food is?

Badgers favourite food is **EARTHWORMS**: they contain lots of protein and water.

A single badger can eat up to how many earthworms in a night?

(Answer at the bottom of the page)

A) 50 B) 1,000 C) 200

Badgers also eat plants, insects, fruits, nuts and crops from fields. They also sometimes eat young rabbits and hedgehogs. In towns and cities, they like to eat peanuts and raisins left out for them in gardens.



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MATING

Mating takes place all year with cubs born Mid February, venturing out the sett with their mother in April...if we are lucky we will see them on our video footage.

Badgers have **DELAYED GESTATION**.

Can you find out the meaning of delayed gestation and how it benefits the cubs?

Try and construct the I-dial in your pack to show a year in the life of a badger



Answer C – a single badger can eat 200 earthworms in one night