

School of Professor Brock

Level **Standard**

Badger basics

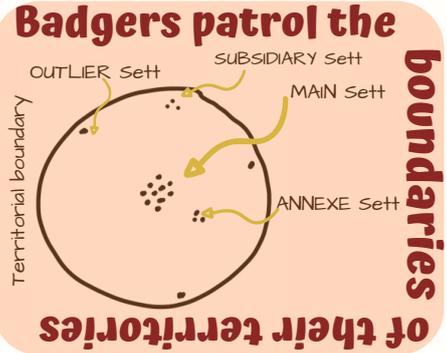
The Eurasian badger is Britain's biggest land predator



And a member of the mustelid family

Territorial

Badgers live underground in **SETTS**, a network of tunnels & chambers. They have several **SETTS** in their **TERRITORY**, the area of land they (mainly boars) defend against intruders. Territory size varies and is smaller where food is plentiful and larger where food is scarce



Badgers patrol the boundaries of their territories

Clans Badgers in Britain live in groups known as **CLANS**, with an average of 5 to 6 adults

There will be a dominant **BOAR** (male) and dominant **SOW** (female). **CUBS** are normally born in February. Average lifespan in the wild is 5-8 years

Social but not sociable

Badgers don't act cooperatively with other **CLAN** members. For example, they don't help each other find food



Nocturnal

Badgers are **NOCTURNAL**. They come out at night. As burrowers, they have small eyes with a special reflective layer to help gather light

Do UK badgers hibernate?

No, but they are less active outside the sett during Winter



Smell Smell is a badger's best sense and vital for communication. It's 700 times better than ours!

Omnivore

Badgers are **OMNIVORES**, eating animals and plant matter. They like earthworms best, eating up to 200 a night!



Foragers

Badgers spend the night **FORAGING**, covering up to a mile in the course of a night

Grooming Badgers often **GROOM** themselves or other clan members as a way of:

- removing parasites
- bonding with other clan members

Dig!! Badgers are great diggers! As well as setts, they also dig dung pits as toilets, and snuffle holes when searching for food



Did you know? Paraceras melis is the the biggest flea so far discovered. It exists only on badgers!



!sdrawkcaB

Badgers push soil back between their front legs whilst digging and move backwards to drag bedding to their sett!

Creatures of habit

Badgers may occupy the same setts and follow the same paths for generations. You can see their tracks in the countryside

