

## kennings

A kenning comes from Norse and Anglo-Saxon poetry. It is a two-word phrase that describes a noun through metaphors. For example the **sea** is described by the kenning phrase, '**whale road**'. The **osprey** bird was known as a '**bone breaker**' because of its powerful talons. Read the facts about badgers below and see if you can come up with some kennings of your own to describe a badger and some parts of their body.



### Badgers

Badgers are usually nocturnal meaning that they come out at night.

They have powerful front paws with 5 **claws**. These are used for digging their underground homes, called setts.

Badgers have exceptionally good **noses**. Their sense of smell is about 700 to 800 times better than ours. They use their sense of smell to detect danger or to find food. Badgers are omnivorous, meaning they eat both animals and plants. Their favorite food is earthworms. They can eat up to 200 a night by sucking them up like spaghetti. They also enjoy insects and fruits and dig for grubs and roots. (They also love peanuts when they can get them, which is why they sometimes visit birdfeeders in gardens!)

Badgers have very strong **jaws**. They use these for fighting with each other or defending themselves. They can crunch up and down very well but cannot chew side to side.

Badgers have poor eyesight and average hearing.



## Kennings

- 1 Try to come up with some kennings for the following parts of a badger's body. You might like to include other creative writing tools, such as alliteration. So, you might call the badger's nose an 'insect investigator'.

Claws



Nose



Teeth



- 2 Try to think up a kenning which describes a badger overall. You might like to think about how they move, or eat, or where they live. Or anything else about badgers which strikes you!

- 3 Write out the following paragraph substituting your kennings for the words in bold.

The **badger** snuffled around the field. Her **nose** tingled at the many scents hanging in the night air. The moonlight helped her little but she could detect earthworms on the surface and crane fly larvae underground. Eagerly, she used her **claws** to go down into the pasture until she found her prize. Her **teeth** bit down on her prey.

