

Facts About Badgers – Skimming and Scanning Task

Badgers are one of the most popular British mammals. There are 11 species of badgers, which are found all over the world, not just in Britain.

Badgers are part of the same family as otters, ferret, polecats, weasels and wolverines. They have a long, pointed head with small ears and a black and white face. Their body has greyish fur, with black and white areas underneath. Badgers can grow to nearly a metre long and weigh between 9 and 11 kilograms. They can run very quickly but only for a short time. They are also good climbers and swimmers!

A male badger is called a boar, a female is called a sow and the babies are called cubs. They can live to be 15 years old. A group of badgers is called a cete although they are often called clans. There are usually 2 – 15 badgers in a cete. Badgers usually give birth during January, February or March. They can have between 1 and 5 cubs each time.

Badgers have chunky bodies with short legs that are suitable for digging. They have five toes on each foot and very long, powerful claws, which makes them the fastest-digging animal on Earth!

Badgers live in an underground burrow called a sett that they dig themselves. Setts have a number of rooms and they are all connected with tunnels that lead up to the outside world. Badgers use leaves and grass to make beds in their setts. They live in families of around 6 and are very house proud. They keep their setts very clean and tidy and do not eat or go to the toilet inside.

Badgers are omnivores which means they eat both meat and plants. Their diet is made up mainly of earthworms but they also like beetles, slugs, wasps, frogs and mice. They also enjoy fruit, such as elder berries or blackberries, and bluebells. They have excellent hearing and a very powerful sense of smell which helps them to find food. They can eat several hundred earthworms each night!

Skimming and Scanning Challenge

1. The word 'badgers' appears 11 times. Underline them all in red.
2. The word 'are' appears 12 times. Underline them all in blue.
3. The word 'they' appears 15 times. Underline them all in green.
4. The word 'have' appears 6 times. Underline them all in purple.

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