

# School of Professor Brock

Level

Standard

## Badger basics

The Eurasian badger is Britain's biggest land predator

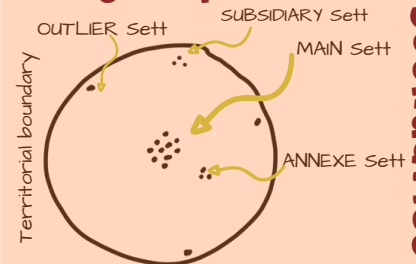


And a member of the mustelid family

### 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



### Omnivore

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



### Grooming

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

- removing parasites
- bonding with other clan members

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!

### Foragers

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

### Dig!!

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



### Creatures of habit

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

