

Teacher  
Notes

## Foraging Badgers & Wriggly Worms

### Outline

This is a new take on the old game of Snakes and Ladders with a few twists:

- badgers form ladders and worms play the snake;
- to move around the board, pupils will be required to answer a number of questions;
- to answer the questions, pupils will need to read an introduction to key badger facts sheet;
- to play the game, children will be required to read and understand detailed and slightly complex game instructions

### Learning objectives

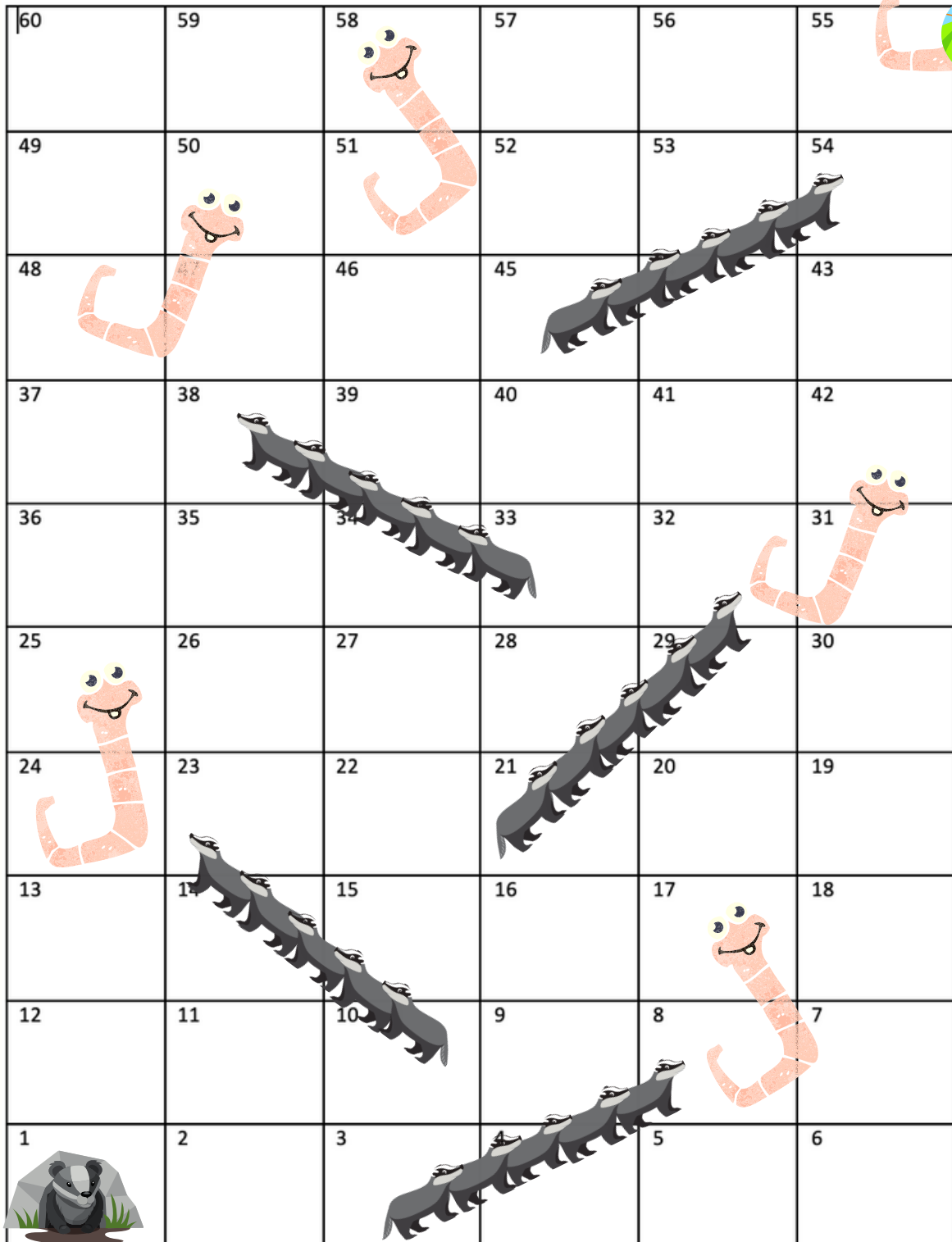
- To assimilate and recall knowledge and understanding on badgers from written text.
- To assimilate and sequence a range of instructions to play the game.

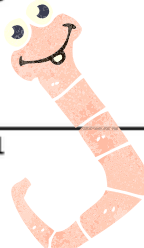
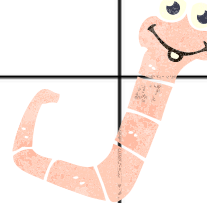

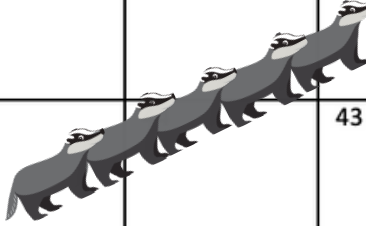
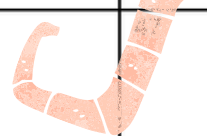
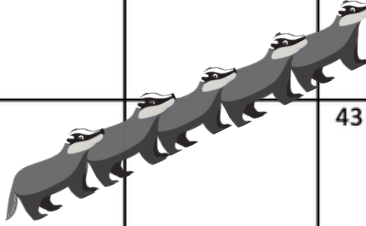


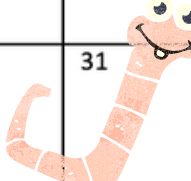
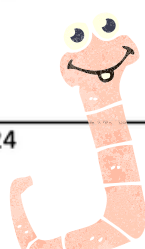








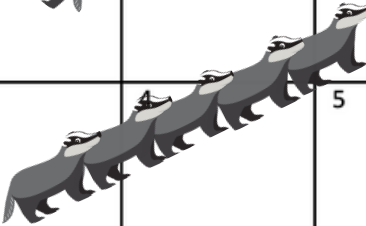
# School of Professor Brock

KEY STAGE  
2

## Foraging Badgers & Wriggly Worms

A new take on Snakes & Ladders



60	59	58 	57	56	55
49	50 	51 	52	53	54 
48 	47	46	45	44	43 
37	38 	39	40	41	42
36	35	34 	33	32	31 
25 	26	27	28	29 	30
24 	23	22	21 	20	19
13	14 	15	16	17	18 
12	11	10 	9	8	7 
1 	2	3	4 	5	6

## Foraging Badgers & Wriggly Worms

Before you start, read this sheet and the "Know your Badgers" sheet. Decide who will be Player 1 and who will be Player 2. Player 1 should take the Question sheet for Player 1 and Player 2 should take the Question sheet for Player 2.

The object of the game is to get your badger from the sett and into the field so that he or she can feed.



Whoever gets to the field first is the winner. You don't need to roll the exact number to finish.

You will need one die and 2 counters to play the game.

### How to play

To move forwards you have to answer a question correctly. Roll a die in order to find out what type of question you need to answer:



- If you get a 1 or a 6, you have to answer a 1 point question.
- If you get a 2 or a 4, you have to answer a 2 point question.
- If you get a 3, you have to answer a 3 point question.
- If you get a 5, you can choose what level of question to answer.

If you answer the question correctly, you move forward 3 squares for a 1 point question, 6 squares for a 2 point question and 9 squares for a 3 point question.

If you land on a badger's tail, you can go UP to the square where the top head in the clan lands.



If you land on an earthworm's head, you must go DOWN to the square where his tail ends.





## Foraging Badgers & Wriggly Worms

### Know Your Badgers!

Badgers are mammals. There are different types of mammals. Badgers belong to the group of mammals called **mustelids**. **Weasels, stoats, pine martens** and **otters** are also mustelids. A nickname for badgers is **brock**, but their proper scientific Latin name is **Meles Meles** and if you are on holiday in France, you may hear people call them **le blaireau**.

A badger's home is called a **sett**. Setts are mostly found in **woodland** or the steep banks of old footpaths and bridleways. Setts are made up of tunnels with 'nesting chambers' in which they sleep. Badgers dig these setts using their powerful front legs. Their front paws have **5 strong claws** on each paw. Badgers keep their setts clean and spend about **70%** of their lives underground. They change their bedding regularly to get rid of **fleas, ticks and lice**. Bedding might include fresh grass and other bedding material.

Badgers mostly go to the loo above ground. They dig small holes called **dung pits**. Often these are some way from the sett. A collection of dung pits is called a **latrine**.

Badgers in Britain live in groups called **clans**. Males are called **boars**, females are called **sows**. Sows are pregnant for **7 weeks** before giving birth to **cubs**, normally **2 or 3** but sometimes more. Cubs are usually born in **February** and stay underground, being fed by their mother, until around April. Coming above ground in Spring means there is plenty of food for them to find.

Badgers have a **white stripe**, called a **blaze**, down the middle of their face. This is to remind other animals that they have powerful jaws and can bite hard. Badger jaw muscles are connected to a crest of bone on the top of their head, known as the **sagittal crest**. Look at a photo of a badger and notice its **white ear tips**!

Animals who eat meat only are called '**carnivores**'. Those who eat plant matter only are called 'herbivores'. Animals who eat both meat and plant matter are 'omnivores'. Badgers are **omnivores**, although their favourite food is **earthworms**. They will eat up to **200** of these a night. They also eat insects, bees, **wasps**, fruit, sweetcorn and lots of other things especially in **Autumn** when they need to fatten up for winter.

Badgers come out at night and are therefore '**nocturnal**'. Animals that come out in the day are 'diurnal' and those who come out at dawn and dusk are '**crepuscular**'.

To see a badger, you generally need to be out late at night, very quiet and still. Make sure the wind is blowing into your face so that the badger can't smell you as a badger's sense of smell is **700 times better than yours!**



Player 1  
questions

## 1 point questions

1. What colour is the blaze down the middle of a badger's face?
2. What is the correct term for a baby badger?
3. What is the correct name for a female badger?
4. A badger can swim. True or False?
5. What is the name of the badger in *Wind in the Willows*?
6. Badgers eat wasps. True or False?



## 1 point answers

1. White
2. Cub
3. Sow
4. True
5. Badger or Mr Badger
6. True

## 2 point questions

1. How many cubs does a badger usually have? (a) 2 (b) 6 (c) 12
2. In what months are cubs usually born?
3. Was an old country term for badger? (a) brock, (b) brockle (c) badgie?
4. Up to how many earthworms does a badger eat per night? (a) 20 (b) 100 (c) 200
5. What is the correct name for a badger's toilet?
6. Name 2 other mammals that might make a home in a badger sett.



## 2 point answers

1. Two
2. February
3. Brock
4. 200
5. Dung pit or Latrine
6. Fox, rabbit

## 3 point questions

1. What is the Latin name for badger?
2. What kind of mammal is a badger?
3. What is the name for the crest on top of the badger's head?
4. How many claws does a badger have on each front paw?
5. How long does it take for a baby badger to grow inside its mum?
6. A badger is a (a) carnivore, (b) herbivore or (c) omnivore?



## 3 point answers

1. Meles Meles
2. Mustelid
3. Sagittal crest
4. Five
5. 7 weeks
6. Omnivore

Player 2  
questions

## 1 point questions

1. What is the name of a badger's home in the ground?
2. What is the correct name for a male badger?
3. Which House in Harry Potter has a badger in its emblem?
4. Badgers live alone. True or False?
5. What is a badger's favourite food?
6. In what habitat are most setts found?



## 1 point answers

1. Sett
2. Boar
3. Hufflepuff
4. False
5. Earthworm
6. Woodland

## 2 point questions

1. What is the correct term for an animal that comes out at night?
2. What colour are the tips of a badger's ears?
3. How many times better is the badger's sense of smell than a human's?  
(a) 100 (b) 400 (c) 700
4. What's the correct name for an animal that eats plants and animals?
5. What is the correct name for a family of badgers?
6. Name another nocturnal mammal?



## 2 point answers

1. Nocturnal
2. White
3. 700
4. Omnivore
5. Clan
6. Hedgehog, fox, bat

## 3 point questions

1. What is the French word for a badger?
2. What is the correct term for an animal that comes out at dawn and dusk?
3. In what season of the year are badgers heaviest?
4. Name one type of parasite that lives on badgers
5. How much of their time do badgers spend underground? (a) 50% (b) 60% (c) 70%
6. Name another mustelid that lives in Britain.



## 3 point answers

1. Le blaireau
2. Crepuscular
3. Autumn
4. Fleas, ticks, lice
5. 70%
6. Weasel, stoat, otter, pine marten