## **School of Professor Brock**





Standard

# What do badgers eat?

#### Invertebrates

Earthworms are a badger's favourite food, making up to 60% of their diet, depending on season & availability

A badger

can eat 200

worms on a

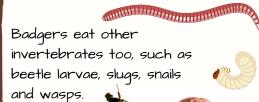
good night

200 worms equates to 500g of worms and would meet a badger's entire energy needs!



To maximise nutrition, badgers both pick worms off the surface and suck them out of the ground whole

A badger's teeth can be eroded by the soil contained in earthworms!





#### Vertebrates

A badger's keen sense of smell & long claws help them locate and dig into burrows and nests of small vertebrates to supplement their diet when worms and grubs are scarce.

#### Mammals

Badgers occasionally predate hedgehogs and will also take young from the nest, including rabbits, rats, mice and voles

#### **Birds**



Badgers are opportunistic and may take eggs or chicks of ground-nesting birds if they come across them.

## **Amphibians and Reptiles**

Badgers might eat the occasional frog. newt or even a slow-worm.









HERBIVORES, like rabbits, eat only plant material

#### **OMNIVORE**

Badgers are known as omnivores - they eat ANIMAL and PLANT products. They are opportunistic - they eat whatever happens to be available and edible at a particular place and time CARNIVORES, like otters, eat only animal matter.



### **Plants**

Fruit are the most commonly eaten plant food since they ripen in Autumn which is when badgers need to eat lots to fatten up before Winter





Badgers can also find Autumn nourishment as cereal crops ripen. Maize (sweetcorn) is the favourite!

Some other plant foods, such as grass, are eaten to assist in the digestion of animal material





Because most badger foods contain liquid, they rarely drink. Like all mammals, however, fluid is vital for digestion and survival.