

# Beautiful BADGERS



## What do badgers look like?

Most badgers have black and white hair on their face, with a white stripe down the middle called a blaze. They also have little white ear tips on their black ears! They usually have grey bodies. Can you see the big, strong legs badgers have in the photos? They have to be strong as they use their front legs to dig their underground homes! Phew! That must be hard work!

## FUN FACT!

A badger's sense of smell is 700 times better than yours! Wow!

## Where do they live?

Well, we've just told you that badgers live underground, but did you know their homes have a special name? A badger's home is called a sett. Setts are made up of lots of tunnels with places called nesting chambers where they sleep - so, think of nesting chambers as badger bedrooms!

Setts can be huge and are usually passed down through families of badgers (how cool is that?!), with some setts being more than 100 years old.

Because badgers spend about 70% of their time underground in their setts, they keep them really clean. They change their bedding regularly and they never go to the toilet in their setts - they dig small holes above ground to go to the loo, called dung pits!



## What do they eat?

Badgers are omnivores - that means they eat meat and plants. Can you guess what a badger's favourite meal is? It's wiggly worms! They can eat up to 200 earthworms a night! When they're not eating worms, they sometimes eat bees and wasps (ouch - careful not to get stung!), slugs, snails and fruit like raspberries and blackberries.

At this time of year, badgers are eating lots and fattening up for winter. During the colder winter months, they usually spend more time inactive underground, so they lose a lot of the weight they put on in autumn.



## Do badgers have friends?

Yes! In the UK, badgers live in groups called clans. They'll share their sett with their clan (there's usually between 4-8 badgers in a clan), but when they go off foraging for food, they go off on their own.

