

# Badger

*meles meles*



The Badger is a native animal in Ireland and can be found in almost every county. It is a very distinctive mammal with its short legs, stocky body and distinctive black and white markings on its head.



## Badger facts

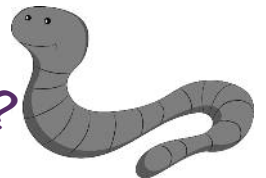
- Badgers are mostly active at night so we rarely see them. They live in large groups of up to 12 animals.
- They live in underground tunnels known as a sett which will be maintained and extended over time.
- A male badger is called a boar and the female is called a sow. Young badgers are known as cubs.
- The male is slightly larger and heavier than the female and sometimes has a wider head and a longer, thinner tail.



## Badger family

The Badger is the largest Irish member of the Mustelid family which also includes weasels, stoats, otters and pine martens. Mustelid means having musk scent glands which the animals use to mark their territory and also helps the badgers identify different individuals.

## What do Badgers eat?



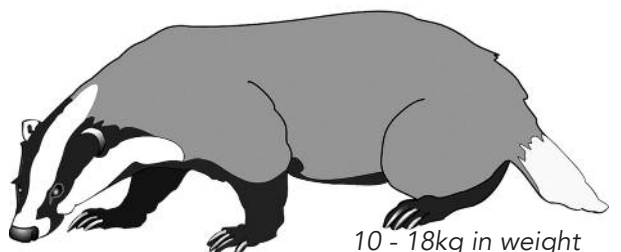
Badgers will eat lots of different things including amphibians, reptiles, mice, rats, fruit and vegetables. Their favourite food are earthworms and they can consume up to 200 in one night!



## Did you know?

Badgers are very clean animals and will regularly change the bedding in their sett.  
A badger sett can be hundreds of years old.

approx 75 - 90cm in length



10 - 18kg in weight  
Males weigh more than the females

## The Badger wordsearch

Can you find all the words? The answers go in all directions!

T	U	A	Q	W	U	O	O	U	K	N	P
H	D	D	I	S	C	U	O	O	G	A	M
G	I	X	R	E	B	S	T	O	C	K	Y
I	L	X	R	O	W	U	D	T	S	A	B
N	E	A	R	R	A	R	C	L	Y	A	A
K	T	E	A	R	T	H	W	O	R	M	D
T	S	B	O	F	L	I	K	E	B	C	G
T	U	M	B	W	O	S	Y	C	M	L	E
E	M	U	M	A	M	M	A	L	O	O	R
S	S	S	Y	T	N	E	C	S	N	L	E
T	A	K	O	Y	M	F	E	I	I	I	P

sett musk badger scent stocky

mustelid mammal earthworm

sow cubs boar night



Anaclann Éan Fian Loch Garman  
Wexford Wildfowl Reserve

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