

BADGERS



Introduction

The Wildwood Animal Workbooks for Key Stage 2 include Badgers, Otters, Frogs and Wolves. Each workbook follows a standardised pattern so that children can select different animals to study but still cover the same themes.

The activity sheets are appropriate for use either as an introduction before a visit or as follow up work. Each activity sheet is designed to link in with and support National Curriculum Programmes of Study for different subjects, including Science, Literacy, Numeracy and Art. There are also Key Stage 1 workbooks covering the same animals to aid differentiation.

Activity Sheets

The following list gives details of the activity sheets contained in the workbook, including the relevant National Curriculum P.O.S and the learning objectives which each sheet covers.

Adaptation



SUBJECT: **Science**

P.O.S: Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: To understand that different animals are found in different habitats.

To understand that animals are suited to the environment in which they are found.

Food Chains and Teeth



SUBJECT: **Science**

P.O.S: Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES: To understand that most food chains start with a green plant.

To identify the structure of a food chain of a specific animal.

To identify important features of an animal's mouth in relation to its diet.



Food Chains and Diet



SUBJECTS:

Science & Numeracy

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Humans and Other Animals
Ma4 - Processing, representing and interpreting data.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To understand that different animals have different diets.

To present evidence about foods eaten by an animal in a suitable bar chart.

Habitats and Homes



SUBJECT:

Science

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To identify different types of habitats.

Tracks and Signs



SUBJECT:

Science

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To identify badgers according to observable features.

Human Impact and Conservation



SUBJECT:

Science

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To recognise ways in which living things and the environment need protection.



Myths and Legends



SUBJECT:

Literacy

P.O.S:

En2 - Myths, Legends & Traditional Stories

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To understand the difference between myths and legends and fact.

Quiz



SUBJECTS:

Literacy & Science

P.O.S:

En2 - Reading for information
Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To scan texts to find information.

The Wildwood Badgers



SUBJECTS:

Art

P.O.S:

Exploring and developing ideas

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To record from first hand observation.

Life Cycle



SUBJECT:

Science

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Living things in their environment

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To understand that adults have young and that these grow into adults which in turn produce young.



Activity



SUBJECT:

Literacy

P.O.S:

En2 - Reading strategies

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

To recognise words and show understanding of their meanings.

Activity



SUBJECTS:

Art & English

P.O.S:

Investigating and making art,craft and design

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

En2 - Nonfiction and nonliterary texts.

To develop control of tools and techniques in art and design.

To understand the structural and organisational features of instructions.

Glossary



SUBJECTS:

Science & English

P.O.S:

Sc2 - Life processes and living things

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

En3 - Spelling

To develop understanding of scientific vocabulary.

To have a secure understanding of the purpose and organisation of a glossary.

Please note that throughout the pack, underlined words can be found in the glossary.



Made to Dig

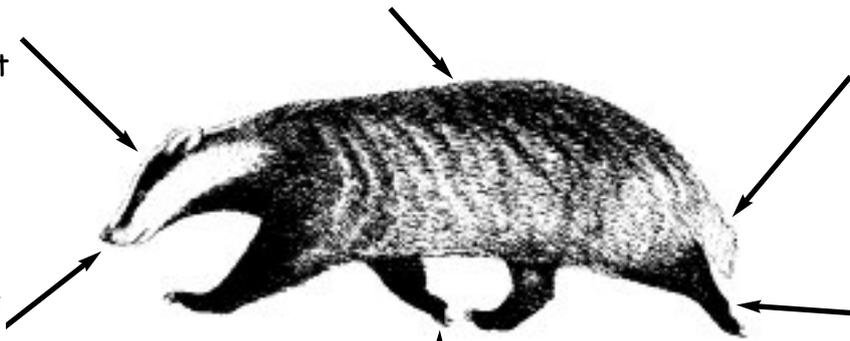
Badgers are members of the weasel family, a group of mammals which also includes the weasel, stoat and otter. You will probably recognise their face, white with broad black stripes, with small eyes and flexible snout. A clean badger is grey although they can often be white, black or ginger. Each badger is very strong and has many features that help it to dig well and live underground.

Thick reinforced skull to protect the brain when it bumps its head underground.

Long, muscular, wedge-shaped body for squeezing through tunnels.

Very short tail so that it doesn't get clogged with earth and mud.

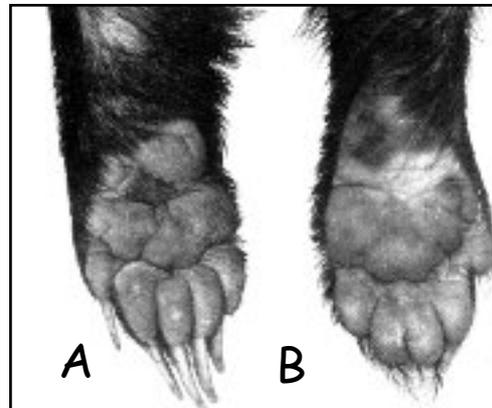
Long snout with bristles helps the badger sniff out worms. Its sense of smell is excellent.



Short but extremely strong legs for digging.

Strong claws to help with digging.

Let's take a closer look at the feet.



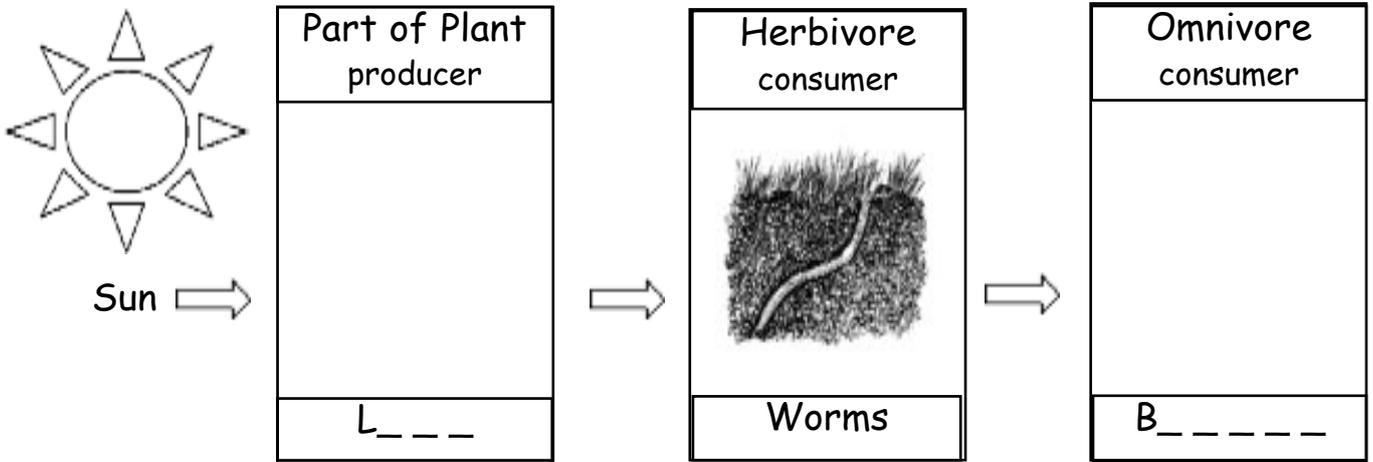
Question: Which are the front feet and which are the back feet?
How do you know?

Question: Why do you think the badger has a stripy face?



Food Chains and Teeth

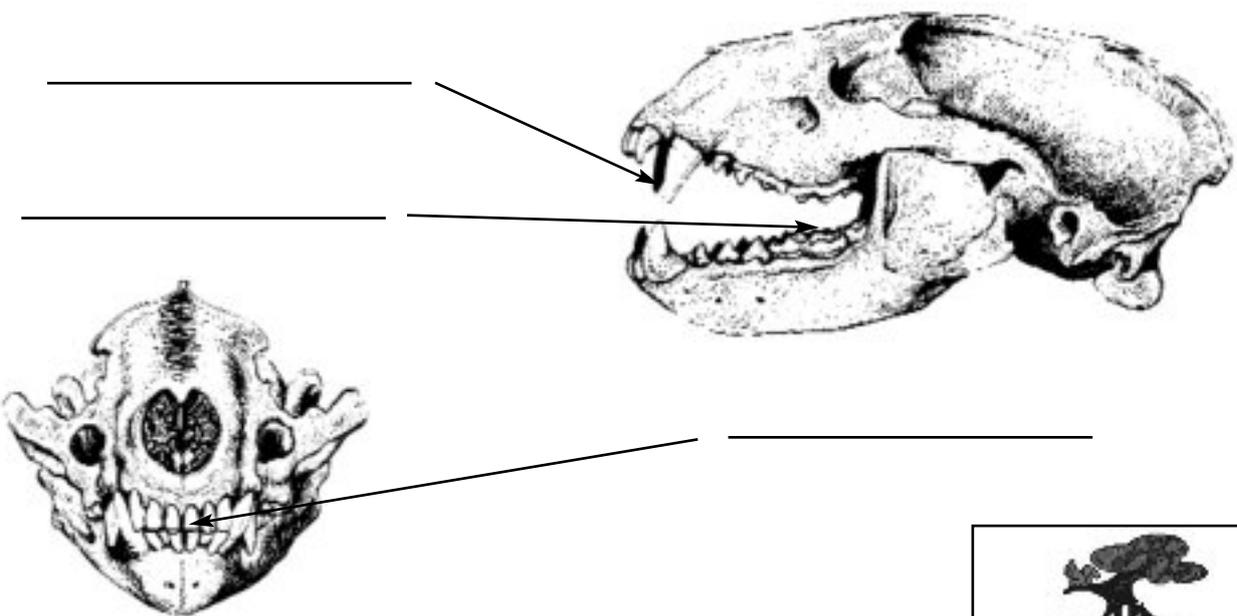
Can you draw and fill in the gaps of this simple food chain?



Badgers have teeth which are used for eating meat and plants. The teeth are different shapes with

- small incisors for cutting
- flattened molars for chewing
- canines for tearing

Can you name the different types of teeth on these badger skulls?
Use these shapes to help you.



Feeding Time

With its short legs the badger is not able to chase prey, instead it forages which means it searches for its food on the ground. Badgers are omnivores which means they eat both meat and plants.

Their main food is worms and these form more than 50% (half) of their diet. Other foods are taken opportunistically or by chance. Badgers eat large insects such as beetles and the nests of bees and wasps. Other mammals may be eaten if they are young or old and sick. In late summer cereals such as wheat and oats growing in fields will be eaten. Fruits and nuts are chosen in the autumn.

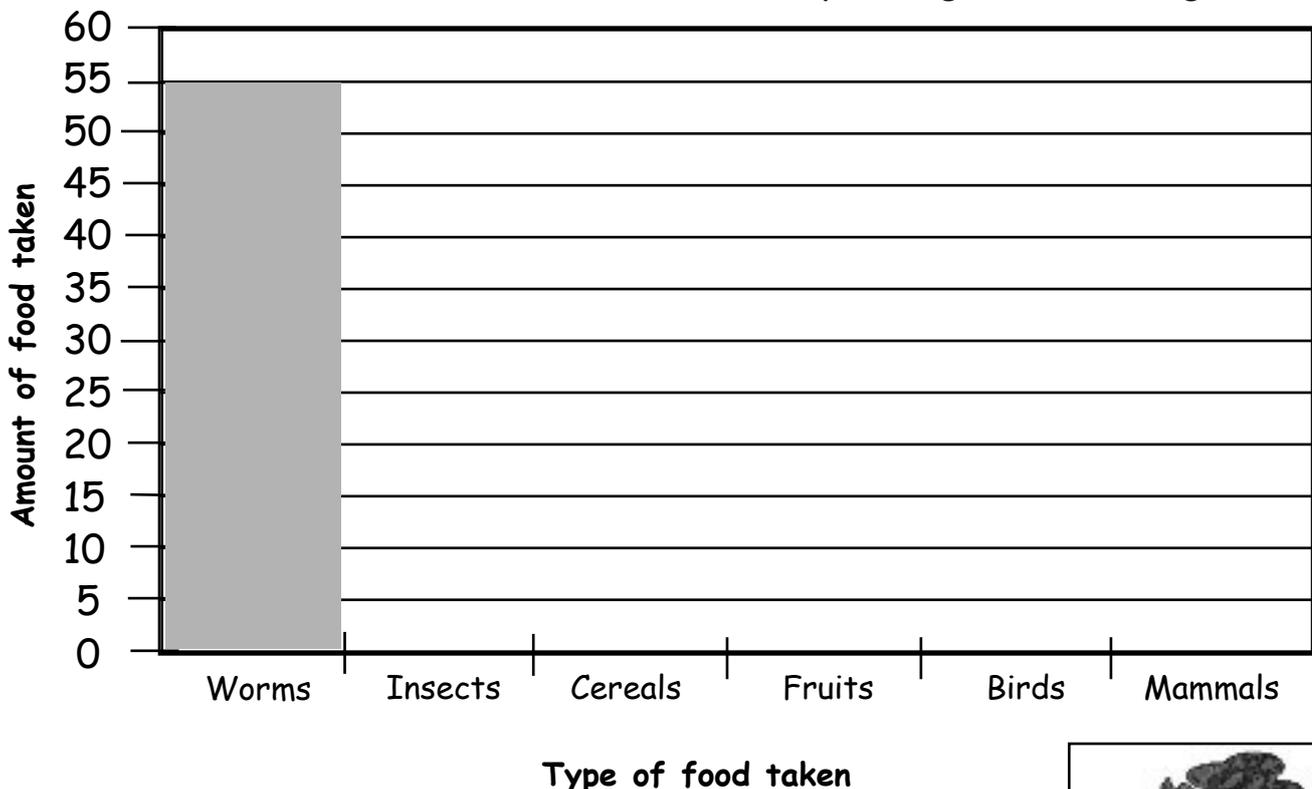


Amounts of different types of food taken (by one badger over two nights).

	Worms	Insects	Cereals	Fruits	Birds	Mammals
Percentage % taken	55	20	15	5	3	2

Can you convert the numbers in the table above into a bar chart below?
(To help you, worm numbers have already been converted.)

Amounts of different foods taken by a badger over two nights



Habitats and Homes

Badgers like to live in woodlands. This is their favourite habitat. They live in groups a bit like families, usually made up of five or six animals. They live underground in a special type of den which they dig themselves and which we call a sett. This may be very large, with lots of tunnels and many entrances. There will be large sleeping chambers and often all the badgers will curl up in a heap and sleep together.

Badgers are nocturnal which means that they are busy at night and sleep during the day. At night, as well as looking for food, badgers will collect hay, straw or other dried plant material to make bedding and drag it back to their setts. Badgers don't hibernate, but they do spend a lot more time asleep in their setts in winter, so they need lots of warm bedding.



Question: Why is the sett important?

Pooh!

Badgers recognize family members by smell rather than sight. Each badger has a smelly gland under its tail; it rubs its own smell onto the other badgers in the group so that all the badgers in the sett develop a 'family smell'.

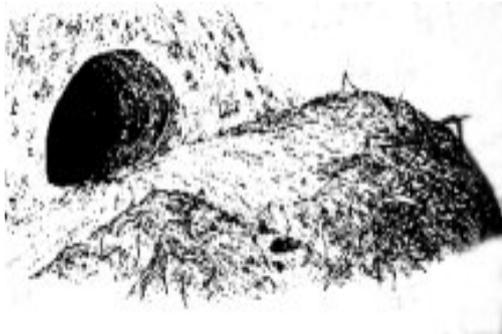


Badgers are territorial animals. This means they defend the area where they live from badgers that they don't know. Badgers that do not have the 'family smell' are usually chased away.



Tracks and Signs

Badgers are very shy and secretive animals, as well as being nocturnal. For these reasons they are a very difficult animal to find and watch in the wild. In order to discover where badgers live, you need to become a badger detective and look for the signs that they leave behind after a night foraging.



Badger setts.

These look like wide holes 20-30cm across. You might see large mounds of soil and bedding which have been dug out of the sett or squashed plants where cubs might have played or feeding remains (can you remember what badgers like to eat?). There might also be dung pits around the sett (known as latrines) which the badgers use regularly.



Badger Paths

Badgers use regular paths which become trodden into the grass. Look for paw prints. You will see these very clearly in soft mud. They have a large pad and five toes with claws. The back foot is smaller than the front. Near the paths look for shallow holes dug out of the soil. These holes are called snuffle holes and are made when the badger tries to dig roots out of the ground.



Other Signs

Badger paths sometimes cross under barbed wire fences and when they do you need to look for badger hairs caught on the barbs. Badger hairs are stiff and wiry, coloured white at the base, dark in the middle and pale at the top. One other clue which badgers might leave behind are scratch marks on trees. Look for these around the main sett. People are not sure why badgers do this, but think it is probably done to mark their territory.

Have a look in our badger enclosure. Write down or draw a picture of any signs the badgers have left behind.



Badgers and Humans



In the past people have killed badgers because they liked to eat the meat. People also used to kill them because they thought that certain parts of the body could be used to cure aches and pains. Different parts of the badger were supposed to be good for curing rheumatism, leprosy, arthritis or snakebite. Their fur made very good shaving brushes too.

Dogs were commonly used to fight badgers for entertainment and sadly this still occurs nowadays in some parts of Britain, even though it is against the law. It is called badger baiting.

Today badgers are also often killed or injured accidentally when they try to cross roads or railway tracks. Badgers like to stick to the same paths that they have always used, even if there is now a busy road cutting across it.



How can we look after badgers?

Badgers are now protected by their own law - this protects both badgers and their setts. The most important way that we can help badgers is by looking after their habitat (where they live). Badger tunnels have now been built under busy roads near where badgers live to help them cross the roads safely.

Multiple Choice

(Tick the box you think has the right answer.)

1. What did we used to make out of badger fur?

- a. hair brush b. shaving brush c. hats

2. How can we help badgers to cross roads safely?

- a. lollipop lady b. 'badger' crossing c. 'badger' tunnel

3. How can we best look after badgers?

- a. keep them as pets b. look after their habitat.
 c. put food out for them



Badger Myths and Legends

Badgers are often shown in stories as wise, kindly animals, for instance in *The Wind in the Willows*. There are also all kinds of superstitions about badgers. Sometimes they are considered lucky animals and some times unlucky.



Badger Superstitions and Beliefs

- Witches smeared badger grease mixed with herbs onto their broomsticks to help them fly.
- Badger blood was drunk to cure disease.
- Leather (skin) was made into bridles that were thought to give humans power over a horse.
- A bridle made from badger skin or a piece of badger skin in your shoes will give you magical power over horses.
- A badger crossing your path will bring you good luck.
- If you hear a badger call, it will bring you bad luck.
- Badgers are wise; other animals bring them their stories to keep and they will teach people which roots and herbs are good to eat.

Our language has adopted two names for the badgers: 'brock' from the Celtic *broc* which means black and white and 'badger', either from the French word 'becheur' which means to dig or from the word 'badge' because of its marked face.



An Iron Age prince was buried lying on a bronze burial couch covered in badger skins. These were to give him the badger's courage and wisdom in the afterlife.

Fantastic Folklore

People used to believe that:

- ✦ Badgers' legs were shorter on one side than the other to help them to walk on sloping hillsides.
- ✦ Badgers could change their shape at will.
- ✦ Badgers had holes in their tails - one for every year of life.



Badger Quiz

1. What is a badger's home called?

2. What is their favourite food?

3. What do we call animals that eat both meat and plants?

4. Do badgers live on their own or in groups?

5. What do we call animals that are active at night-time?



Badger Life Cycle

1. Badger cubs are born in a sett, usually in February.



2. By five weeks old the cubs' eyes are open. In early April they start to come

outside but they stay close to the entrance to the sett. Their mother is still feeding them on milk.

3. By June, the cubs know their way around their territory. They have stopped drinking milk and started to eat solid food.



5. Adult badger. By late autumn the cubs are fully grown. They usually stay in the sett where they were born.



4. By July, the cubs are finding their own food. The cubs are almost as big as the adults.



Question: Why do you think the cubs stay so close to the sett at first?



Badger Word Search

Can you find all the words to do with badgers in the grid below?

There are 20, running forwards, backwards, up, down, across and diagonally. Some of the letters are used in more than one word.

To help you, some of the words you are looking for are: B_ _ _ - a male badger, S_ _ - a female badger, C_ _ - a young badger, S_ _ _ - a badger's home, D_ _ - what badgers do! P_ _ - what badgers use for digging, C_ _ _ _ - on the ends of paws to help dig, G_ _ _ _ - badgers do this to each other, B_ _ _ _ _ - badgers collect dry plant material to use as this, N_ _ _ _ - when badgers come out, N_ _ _ _ _ _ - the word used to describe animals that come out at night, F_ _ - this animal sometimes shares the badger sett, R_ _ _ _ _ - also shares the badger sett, F_ _ - this keeps a badger warm, B_ _ _ _ and W_ _ _ _ - the stripes on a badger's face are these colours, N_ _ - badgers might do this when they fight, G_ _ _ _ - part of the badger that makes a smell, O_ _ _ _ _ _ - an animal that eats meat and plants, E_ _ _ _ _ _ - badger's favourite food!

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



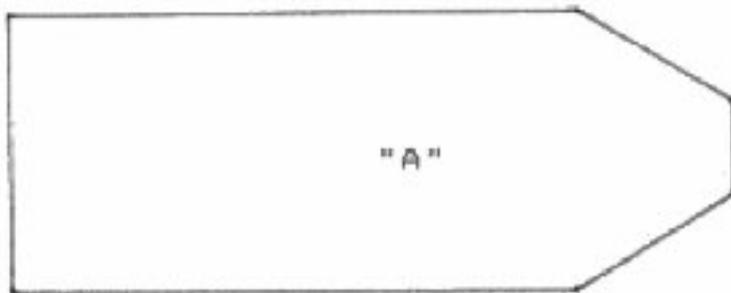
Let's Make a Badger Puppet

To make your finger puppet, you will need:

- some black felt and some white felt
- a pair of scissors
- some glue
- black or white thread
- a sewing needle
- two small beads

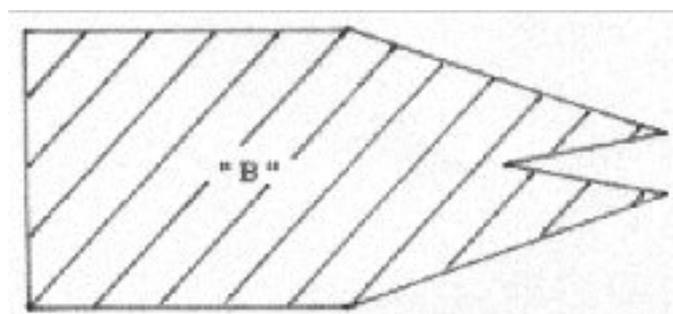
Step 1.

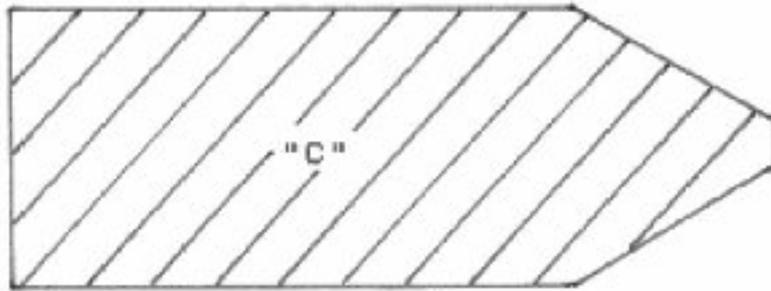
Cut out shape "A" in white felt. (Take care with scissors!)



Step 2.

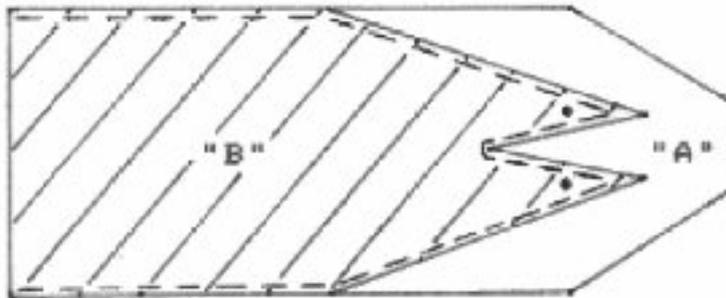
Cut out shapes "B" and "C" in black felt.





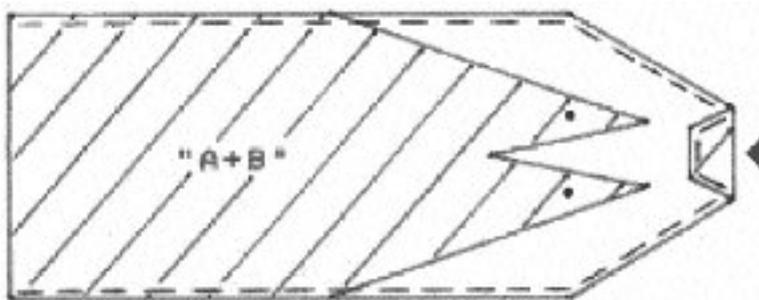
Step 3.

Sew "B" onto "A", by sewing along the dashed lines as shown. (Be careful with the needle!) Then glue the beads in the places shown, for the eyes.



Step 4.

Sew "A + B" onto "C", sewing along the dashed line as shown. Make sure you fold the end of "C" over, to make the badger's nose.



Your finger puppet is now ready to slip onto your finger!

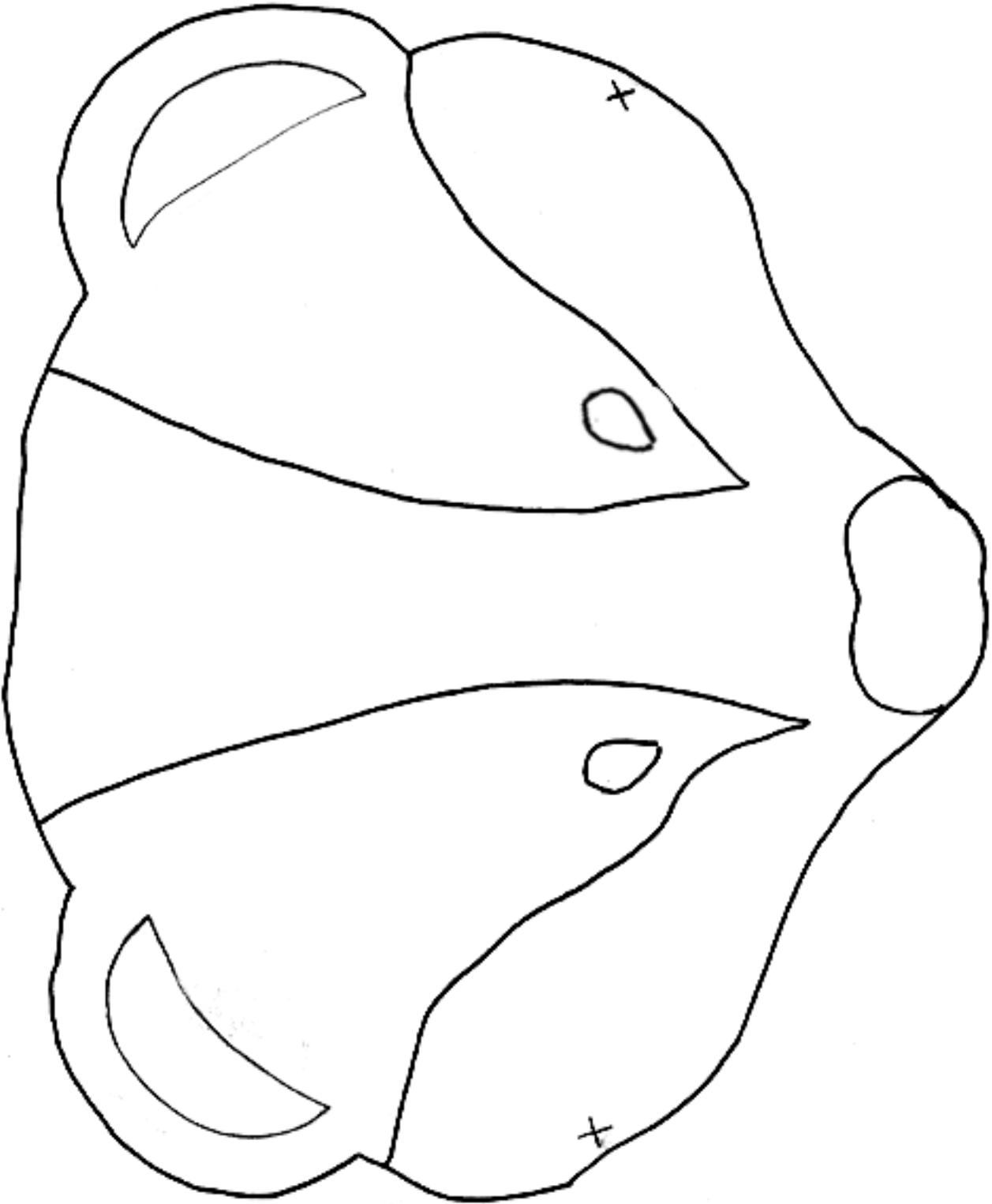


Make a Badger Mask!

You will need felt tips (or paint), a pair of scissors, a hole punch and some elastic.

Trace the badger head on the next page onto thin card. Colour it in and cut it out. Ask a grown up to help you cut out the eye shapes. Use a hole punch to make holes where it is marked by a cross. Measure the correct length of elastic to fit around your head. Thread it through the holes on the side of the mask and tie a knot. Your mask is now ready to wear!





Word List

- **canine** - fang-like teeth at the side of the mouth often used for stabbing and holding prey.
- **consumer** - an animal which eats plants or other animals. Consumers are sometimes called carnivores, herbivores or omnivores.
- **flexible** - able to bend easily.
- **forage** - search for food.
- **gland** - part of the body which produces a smelly oil.
- **habitat** - a place where an animal lives.
- **herbivore** - an animal which eats plants.
- **hibernate** - to sleep through the winter.
- **incisor** - rectangular-shaped teeth at the front of the mouth usually used for cutting.
- **latrine** - a small hole in the ground used as a toilet.
- **molar** - big square-shaped teeth at the back of the mouth used for chewing and grinding.
- **nocturnal** - animals which are active at night and sleep during the day.
- **omnivore** - an animal which eats both meat and plants.
- **opportunistically** - to take something by chance.
- **prey** - an animal which gets hunted and eaten by other animals.
- **producer** - a green plant which can take energy from the sun and make food using the process of photosynthesis.
- **sett** - an underground burrow which has been made and which is lived in by badgers.
- **territorial** - a word which describes an animal which defends its territory.
- **territory** - a place where an animal lives which it defends from other animals.

