

Teacher
notes

World Badgers

Learning objectives

- To find out about worldwide species of badger and where they live;
- To label accurately maps with worldwide locations;
- To use the internet to find answers to questions posed.

Teacher notes

- 1 Most badgers tend to live alone but Eurasian badgers tend to live in groups known as clans.
- 2 Whilst many nocturnal animals have large eyes to gather light, badgers have small eyes since:
 - they largely live underground where there is no light;
 - large eyes are more prone to damage or irritation from dirt, grit and dust while moving around underground and digging.
- 3 Smell is the most important sense since it is central for badgers finding food and communicating.
- 4 The badger range is given on the Badger Trust website <https://www.badgertrust.org.uk/badgers> and can be seen in map form at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_badger
- 5 It is possible that frozen seas during the Ice Age may have provided a crossing point for badgers. And later it is thought the badgers expanded their range when Great Britain was joined by a corridor of land to the continental landmass. This was more than 10,000 years ago.
- 6 The Honey Badger section provides the most information and demanding reading. It may be useful, therefore, to differentiate by pointing some pupils towards the Honey Badger and some towards the American Badger for Q6.

World Badgers

The European Badger, *Meles Meles*, is also known as the Eurasian Badger because of its range, or the countries which it inhabits.



There are a number of other badger species living in other parts of the world, including:

Honey badger



American badger



The DK encyclopedia site will tell you about all these species:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/badgers/>

Read the introduction to badgers on this page.

1

Based on what you read here, what is the key difference between Eurasian badgers and other badgers of the world?

Pupil
worksheet

World Badgers

Now read the information on the **Eurasian Badger** on the DK page.



- 2 Why do you think the badger has small eyes?
- 3 Which do you think is the most important sense to a Eurasian badger?
- 4 Now go to the Badger Trust page, find the range of the European badger and shade this area on the map below.

<https://www.badgertrust.org.uk/badgers>



- 5 Where necessary, badgers can swim short distances but they don't swim across seas. The British Isles have the same species as continental Europe. Suggest reasons why this might be.

Pupil
worksheet

World Badgers

6

Now return to the DK encyclopedia site:

<https://www.dkfindout.com/uk/animals-and-nature/badgers/>

Choose one of the other badger species shown. Read the information on the one you have chosen.

Honey badger



American badger



Explain two ways in which this badger is adapted to its environment. You might want to make drawings of parts of their body to help you.