

School of Professor Brock

Level **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!



Badgers eat other invertebrates too, such as beetle larvae, slugs, snails and wasps.



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



What do badgers drink?

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