

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 acid 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 omnivores - they eat **ANIMAL** and **PLANT** products. And they are opportunistic - they eat whatever happens to be available and edible at a particular place and time

CARNIVORES like otters, eat only animal tissue.



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 of the foods badgers eat contain liquid, they rarely drink. Fluid is, however, vital for their digestion and indeed survival.

Vertebrates

A badger's keen sense of smell & long claws help them locate and dig into burrows and nests of small vertebrates to supplement their diet when worms are scarce.

Mammals

Badgers occasionally predate hedgehogs and will also take young from the nest, including rabbits, rats, mice, and voles



Birds



Badgers are opportunistic and may take eggs or chicks of ground-nesting birds if they come across them.

Amphibians

Badgers might eat the occasional frog or toad



Reptiles

Or even a slow-worm!

