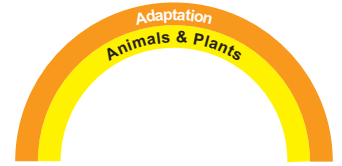


# Which creatures live in a woodland environment?



## Learning Intention

- To learn about the variety of creatures found in a woodland areas and what they need in order to survive.

## National Curriculum Skills

- Science** – Communicate clearly using relevant scientific vocabulary.
- Through fieldwork, they should be given the opportunity to study the plants and animals in two contrasting local environments.
  - The environmental factors that affect what grows and lives in those 2 environments
- ICT** – Use ICT to further their understanding of information they have retrieved and gathered.
- ESDGC** – The natural environment.

## Activity Outline

- \* Children will brainstorm woodland creatures.
- \* Research one woodland creature.
- \* Create a fact file for their creature.

## Resources

Creature Factfiles

Activity Sheet – blank factfile sheet

Access to books / Internet for research

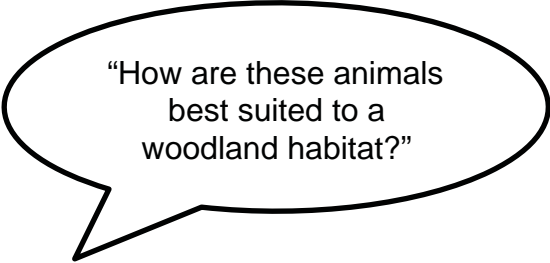
**Prior to lesson** visit local woodland area e.g. Gnoll Park, Margam Park



# Which creatures live in a woodland environment?

## Lesson Outline

- Begin discussing the Badger or the Brown Long Eared Bat with the class.
- Have a brainstorm with the children to find out what they already know. Do they know where they live and what they eat? List all the facts that they come up with.
- Next, read the factfiles with the class.
- Allow the children to carry out some research of their own. Explain that they are going to produce a fact file about the \_\_\_\_\_. They can decide what information they would want to have in their fact file, or they could use the template provided.
- An information sheet should also be provided to supplement the children's own research. Discuss with the children what information should go on a fact file. See if they can come up with some suitable headings that will help them when they research their chosen species.
- Children will find a range of articles by simply searching '\_\_\_\_\_' on the Internet, but websites such as the RSPB birdguide, or Butterfly Conservation are good places to start.
- Once the children have carried out their research, they can then create their factfile, using the template provided or by creating their own.
- Display these for the children to look at and discuss the different information that has been collected. Ask the children what sort of habitat would be ideal for a \_\_\_\_\_. What would it want in its ideal home? Ensure that the children appreciate that availability of both food and shelter is essential for survival.



"How are these animals best suited to a woodland habitat?"

Suggestions for other local creatures –

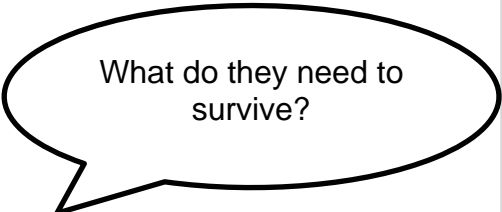
**Song thrush**

**Badger**

**Bats**

**Beetles**

**Spiders**



What do they need to survive?

Badgers shelter underground, living in burrows called setts.

Badgers are fierce animals and will protect themselves and their young at all costs.

Some badgers live alone, while others live in groups called clans. Clan size can be from 2 to around 15 badgers.

Males are slightly larger than females. They can have a longer, thinner and whiter tail than females.

Badgers have a small head, small eyes, a thick short neck and a long wedge shaped body with a short tail

*Creature Feature*

# The Badger

The average adult is about 75 cm long including a 15 cm tail. They weigh about 12 kg.

Badgers in Europe eat mainly earthworms, insects and grubs. They may also eat small mammals, amphibians, reptiles and birds as well as cereals, roots and fruit.

Badgers are nocturnal animals and are adapted specifically for life underground.

Badgers do not hibernate! They have found ways of keeping energy and body weight during the winter months.

The name badger is believed to come from the French word 'becheur' which means digger.

Many badgers are killed by cars as they cross the roads.

Male badgers are called boars, females are sows and the young are cubs.

Cubs are born in litters of 2 or 3.

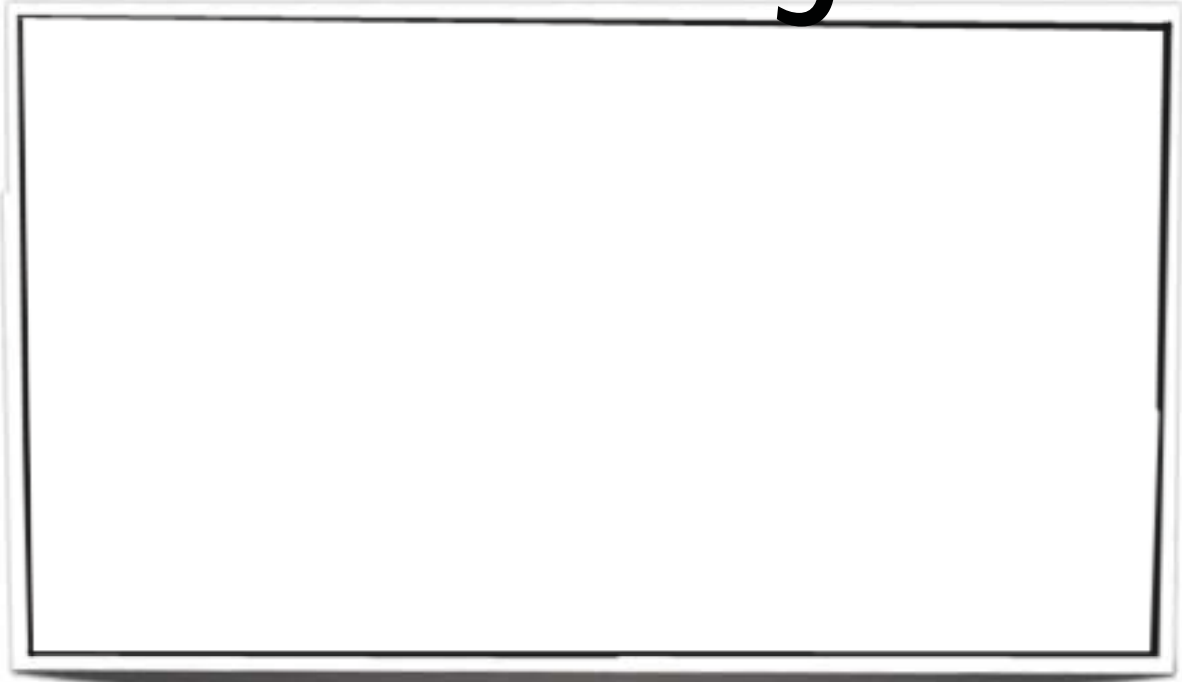
A badger's hair is black and white.

When cubs are born, they are blind, pink with silky fur and measure 12 cm long. Their eyes open about 5 weeks old.

Badgers are usually found in woods, scrubs, hedgerows, quarries, open fields and even housing estates!

Badger baiting is a blood sport. It is illegal.

# The Badger



Description

Size

Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information

They are the second most common species of bat in Britain.

Their fur is long and woolly or fluffy. The adult's fur is a buff-brown colour, and they have a pink-brown face.

The ears and wing membranes are a light grey-brown.

Bats are the only mammals which can truly fly.

Body length: 4.2-5.3cm,  
Wingspan: 24-28cm,  
Average weight 6-12g.  
Size: Head and body around 4.5cms. Ears approximately 3cms tall.

Brown long-eared bats have relatively large eyes and ears which help them detect prey in cluttered environments.

*Creature Feature*  
**The Brown Long Eared Bat**

Brown long-eared bats are usually found in crevices but may be on the wall, sometimes hanging freely with the wings partially wrapped around the body.

They forage close to the roost in open woodland or parkland and feed in flight. Food includes beetles, moths, spiders, flies and midges - they also pluck caterpillars, spiders and other prey off twigs and leaves.

In the summer they roost in tree holes, bat and bird boxes, and attics.

*None of the bats in Britain feed on blood!*

The sounds which they emit are 'ultrasonic', which is another way of saying they are beyond the range of normal human hearing.

Long-eared bats emerge when it is dark.

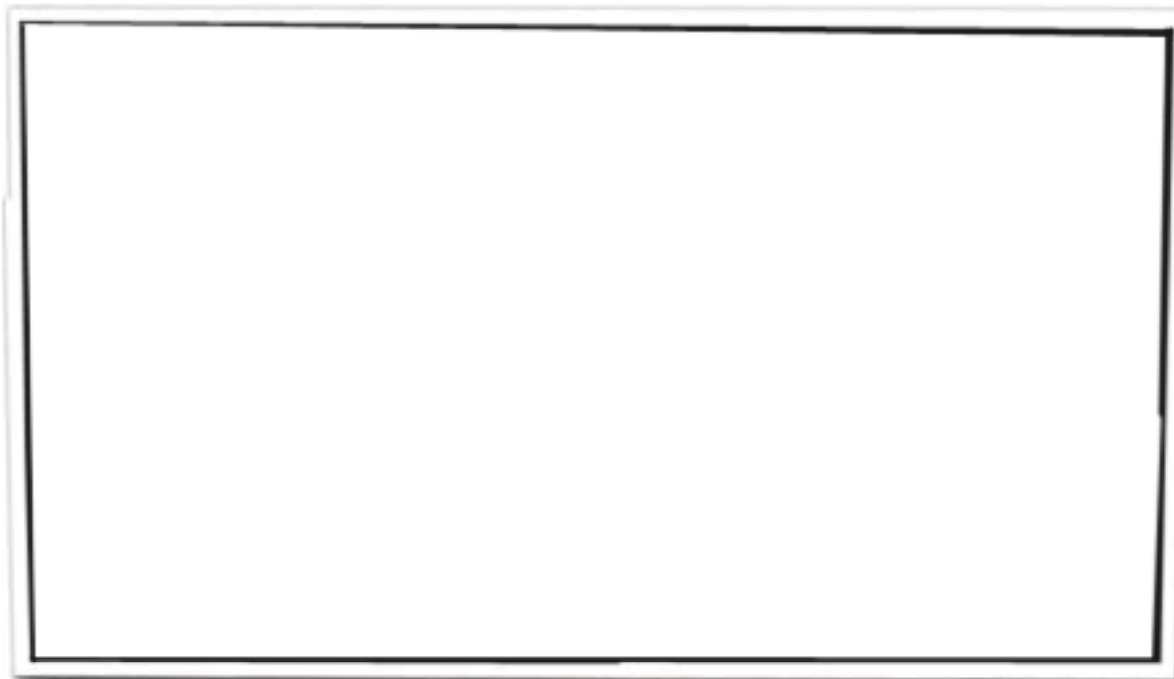
They range across coniferous and deciduous woodland, as well as orchards and parkland.

In the winter they hibernate in cellars, tunnels and caves, usually solitarily, from October to March/April.

The bones in a bat's wing are just like those in the human arm and hand, except that the bat finger bones are greatly elongated and connected by a double membrane of skin to form the wing.

They mate in the autumn and give birth to one young in mid-June. Their babies are born live, and they feed on their mother's milk. They are weaned and able to fly by the end of July.

# The Brown Long Eared Bat



Description

Size

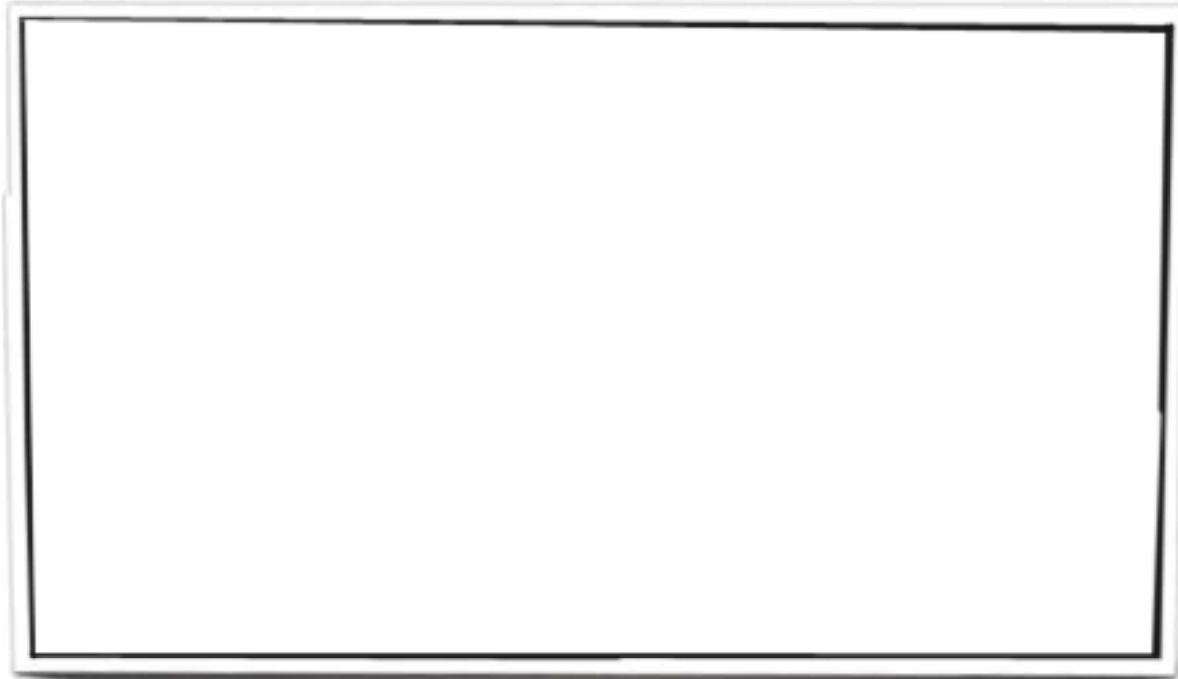
Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information

# The \_\_\_\_\_



Description

Size

Habitat

Diet

Breeding

Additional Information