

European rabbit



Scientific name *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Habitat Burrows, called warrens, in Europe, north-west Africa, Australia and parts of South America.

Diet Grass, leaves, buds, tree bark and roots.

Size Adults are around 34–50 cm long.

Appearance European rabbits are small mammals. They are covered in grey-brown or black fur with a lighter colour underneath. They have long ears, large back legs and short, fluffy tails.

Features European rabbits have sharp teeth to slice through their food. They use their powerful back legs to run away from danger quickly. European rabbits can also see, smell and hear very well.

Black garden ant



Scientific name *Lasius niger*

Habitat Underground nests in Europe and some parts of North America, South America, Asia and Australia. Black garden ants live in groups called colonies with one queen and 4000–7000 worker ants.

Diet Nectar from flowers, small insects, fruit, cockroaches and beetles.

Size Queen ants are around 6–9 mm long. Males and worker ants are around 3–5 mm.

Appearance Black garden ants are glossy, black insects. Each ant has three pairs of legs.

Features Queens and male ants have wings. Female worker ants gather food and care for the queen. Each ant has two parts of the mouth (mandibles) that allow them to grasp, carry, cut and bite. Ants also have antennae to help them touch and feel.

European mole



Scientific name *Talpa europaea*

Habitat Underground tunnels in Europe.

Diet Earthworms, insects, centipedes and mice.

Size Adults are around 11–16 cm long.

Appearance European moles are small mammals with dark grey, velvety fur. They have very small eyes and ears that are buried beneath their fur.

Features European moles have powerful front legs and sharp claws to help them dig. They are good swimmers and have an excellent sense of smell. The saliva in its mouth contains poison that can stop earthworms from moving before they eat them.

Meerkat



Scientific name *Suricata suricatta*

Habitat Large underground tunnels in the south of Africa. Meerkats live in groups of up to 30.

Diet Meerkats usually eat insects but can eat lizards, snakes, scorpions, small mammals and plants.

Size Adults are around 35–50 cm long.

Appearance Meerkats have long, thin bodies and arms and legs that are covered in grey or brown fur. They have black patches around their eyes and black stripes on their tails and bodies.

Features Meerkats have long tails that they use to balance when they stand up on their back legs to watch for predators. Their sharp claws are excellent for digging and climbing trees.

Common earthworm



Scientific name *Lumbricus terrestris*

Habitat Loose soil around the world.

Diet Common earthworms mainly eat leaves and other plants but can eat dead insects.

Size Large worms can measure 20–25 cm in length.

Appearance Common earthworms have soft, reddish, tube-like bodies. They have no arms or legs, and their bodies are split into 100–150 pieces called segments.

Features Common earthworms are covered in hairs, or bristles, to help them to move. They breathe through their skin.

European badger



Scientific name *Meles meles*

Habitat Underground burrows, known as setts, in the woodlands of Europe and some parts of West Asia. Badgers often share their burrows with other badger families.

Diet Earthworms, large insects, small mammals, carrion (animals that are already dead), and some fruits and plants.

Size Adults are around 60–90 cm long.

Appearance European badgers are covered in black, white, brown and grey fur. They have small heads and short legs.

Features European badgers are powerful with strong jaws and long claws to help them burrow. They are nocturnal which means they are awake during the night and asleep during the day. European badgers have a great sense of smell.