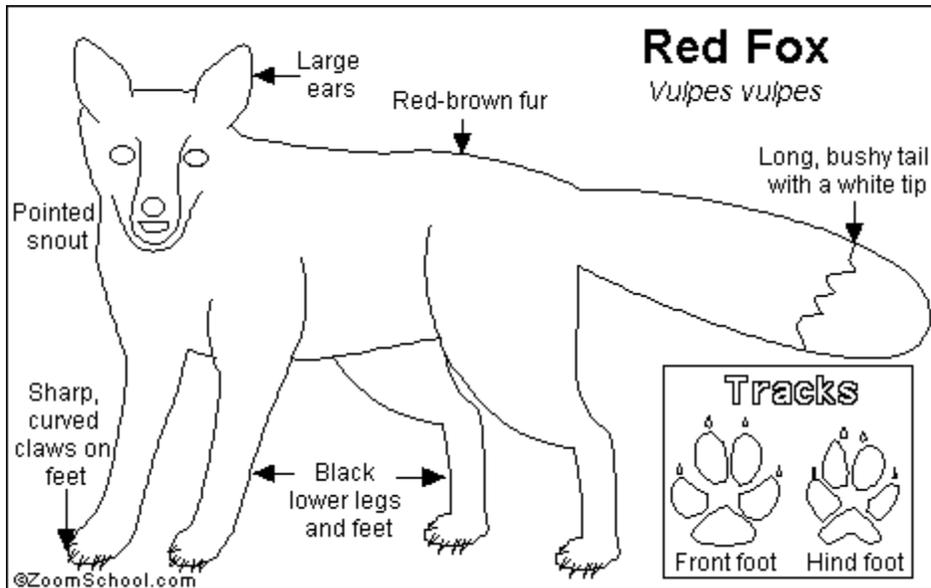


Information Booklet



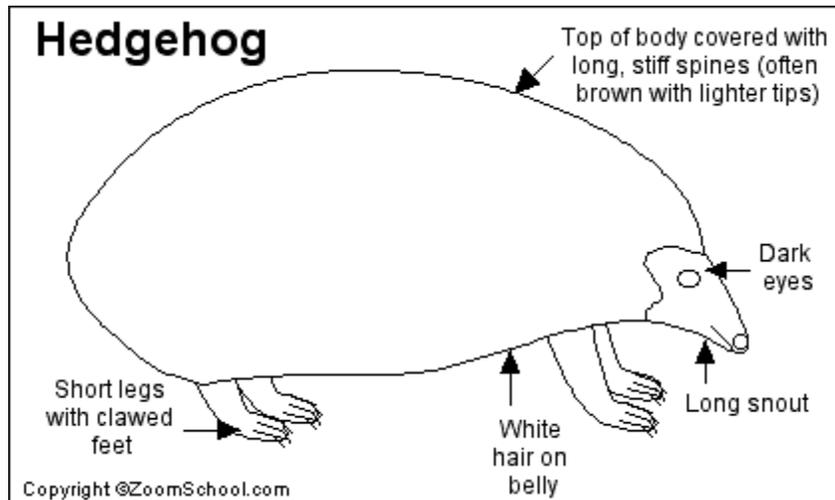
The fox is a clever mammal that has large ears and a long, bushy tail. It lives in many different habitats, including forests,

deserts, scrub, plains, grasslands, and Arctic snow. Many live in the area where forests meet farms. Foxes are found all over the world, including Europe, Asia, Africa, Australia, and North and South America. A fox can live up to 13 years in a zoo. Predators (enemies) of the fox include the wolf and man. Foxes will walk back on their own tracks in order to confuse their enemies.

A male fox is called a reynard, the female is called a vixen, and the baby is called a kit. A group of foxes is called a skulk or a leash.

What do they look like? The fox is 14 to 39 inches long with a tail 7 to 20 inches long. The long, bushy tail, sometimes called a sweep, helps the fox change direction quickly and keeps the fox's feet and nose warm when it curls up to sleep. Foxes have sharp, curved claws, sharp teeth, and thick, insulating fur.

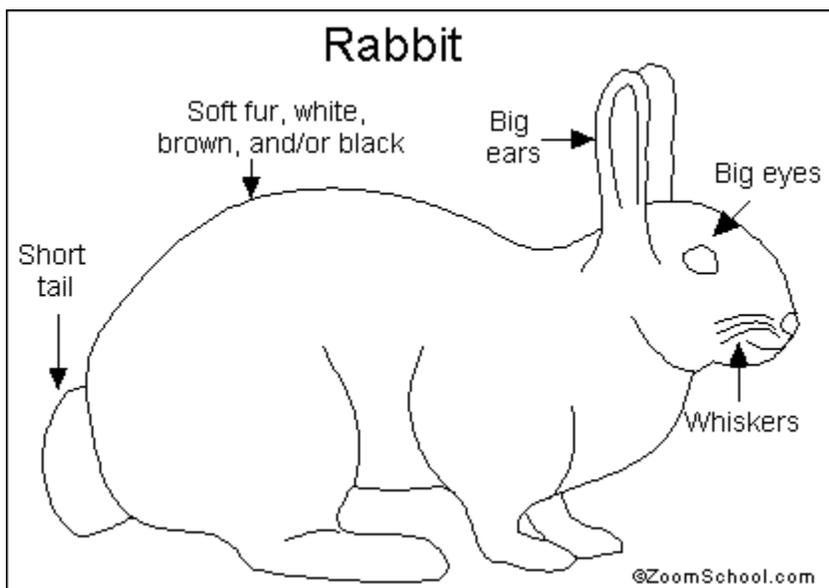
What do they eat? Foxes are mostly **carnivores** (meat-eaters). Most foxes hunt alone. They are **nocturnal**; they hunt mostly at night. Foxes eat small mammals (like mice), eggs, birds, insects, amphibians (like frogs), reptiles (like lizards), fish, grass, berries, nuts, and **carrion** (carcasses of animals that they find).



The hedgehog is a small, noisy mammal whose hair is stiff with spiky spines on the top part of its body. Large birds of prey (like owls), foxes and badgers are the only enemies of hedgehogs. Hedgehogs can be found in Africa, Asia, Europe and have been introduced to New Zealand. They can live in a wide variety of habitats, including deserts, forests, and plains. Hedgehogs will **hibernate** (sleep through the winter) in very cold climates and **aestivate** (sleep through dry summers) in hot deserts. Hedgehogs have a can live nearly 10 years as a pet or in a zoo.

What do they look like? Hedgehogs range in size from 6 to 14 inches long. When threatened, the hedgehog can pull itself into a prickly ball almost impossible to attack. It has a soft underbelly with white hair.

What do they eat?: Hedgehogs are insect-eaters but they like to eat other things too. They eat insects (like beetles, bees, and wasps), crustaceans (like snails), small animals (like mice, birds, lizards, and snakes), eggs, dead meat that they find, and some plant material. They often poke around in the dirt for food. Hedgehogs are **nocturnal** (most active at night).



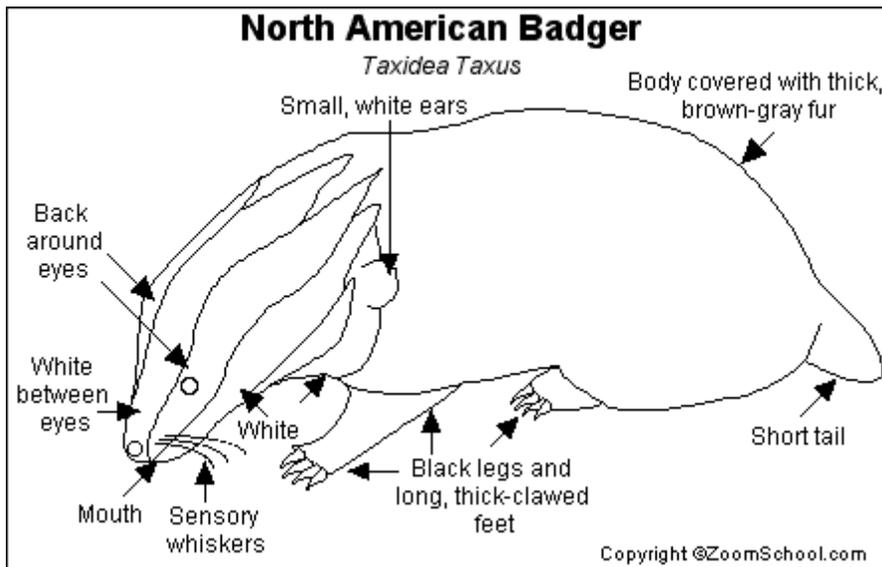
Rabbits are fast-moving, big-eared mammals. There are about 25 different species of rabbits. They live in a variety of environments, including deserts, swamps, marshes, forests, grasslands, and prairies. Rabbits are found on every

continent except Antarctica.

Most rabbits live for about a year in the wild. They are hunted by dogs, foxes, raccoons, weasels, bobcats, lynxes, hawks, and eagles. They have a fast reproductive rate.

What do they look like? Rabbits range in size from 1 to 2 feet long. They have very big and powerful hind legs which they use for hopping and for digging burrows.

What do they eat? Rabbits are **herbivores** (plant-eaters). They eat grass, leaves, bark, and twigs.



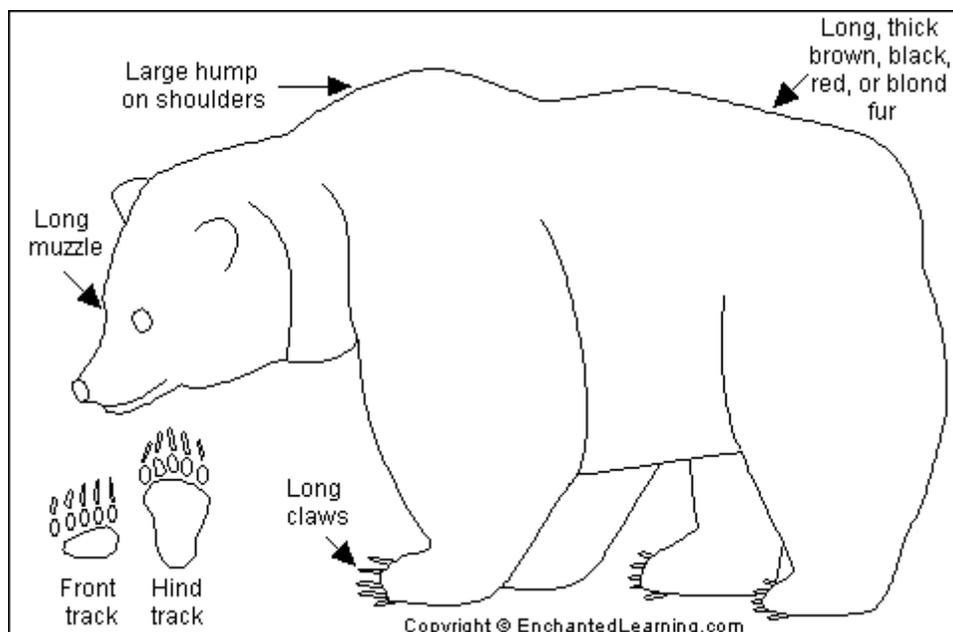
The badger is a burrowing mammal with a black-and-white striped face. Badgers are **nocturnal** (most active at night). They are found in tropical forests, plains,

woodlands, mountains, and prairies in Asia, Europe, and North America. Badgers have a life span of 11-13 years in captivity (in a zoo). They are closely related to skunks, martens, and weasels.

Some badgers live in groups called **clans**. These clans make long-lasting tunnels and chambers called **setts**. They communicate with each other through sounds and scents. North American badgers like to be alone but the; European badgers live more in groups. Their enemies include people, coyotes, and dogs.

What do they look like? Badgers range in size from 13-31 inches long plus a short tail 4-7 inches long. The American badger has brown-gray fur, black legs, long, flat feet with long, strong, curved claws, and a distinctively striped face. It weighs up to 37 pounds.

What do they eat? Badgers are omnivores (eating both animals and plants). They eat rodents, frogs, snakes, small mammals, worms, insects and their larvae, fruit, and roots. Badgers burrow for much of their food.



Brown bears are large mammals that live in cool mountain forests, meadows, and river valleys. These solitary bears can run up to 35 mph for short bursts.

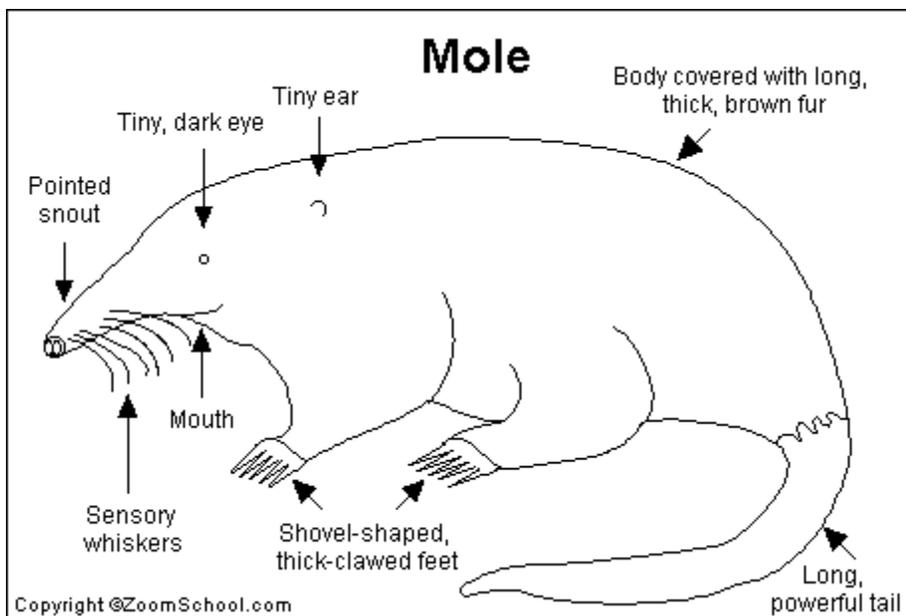
Widespread in

the Northern Hemisphere, brown bears are found in North America, Europe, and Asia. Grizzly bears are a type of large brown bear found in the interior of North America.

Although they sleep in dens (caves, hollow logs, or holes they dig) during the winter, they are not true hibernators and can be easily awakened. Brown bears have a life span of about 25 years in the wild.

What do they look like? Brown bears are up to 7 feet long and weigh up to 1,500 pounds. Females are much smaller than the males. Their thick fur comes in different colors from black to brown to reddish brown to blond. They have thick fur close to the skin and long, coarse guard hairs. They have a big head, a long muzzle, and a large hump on their shoulder (the hump is a cluster of muscles that give the front legs extra strength). The front claws are up to 4.75 inches, almost twice as long as the rear claws. Newborns weigh only about 1 pound, the size of a rat.

What do they eat? Brown bears are omnivores who eat plants, roots, berries, fungi, fish, small mammals, and large insects.

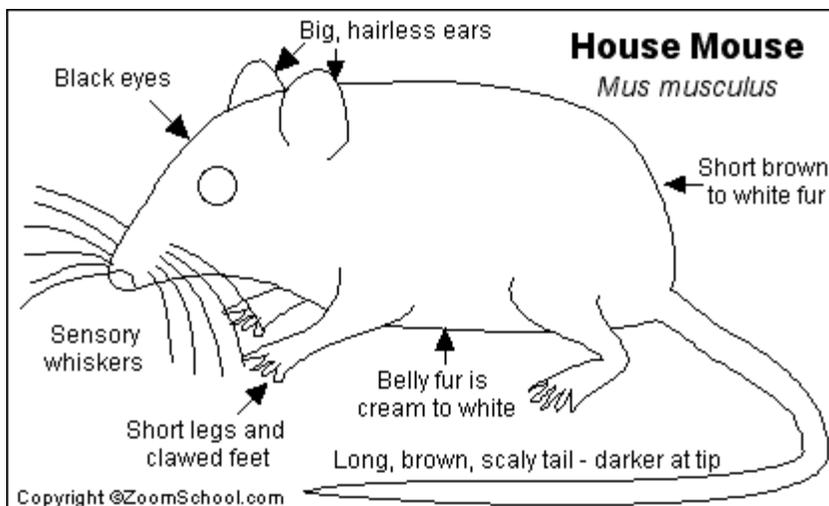


The mole is a burrowing mammal with long digging claws. It lives underground for most of its life. About 30 types of moles are found around the world; they live in Asia, Europe, southern

Africa, and North America. Moles live in just about any kind of environment, including fields, woodlands, swampy land, riverbanks, and deserts. Moles have a life span of about 3 years in the wild. Some moles are very good swimmers.

What do they look like? Moles have tiny eyes and are virtually blind. They have an acute sense of touch which is aided by sensory bumps on the snout, sensory whiskers on the face, and sensory hairs on the feet and tail. Moles range in size from 2 to 9 inches long with a 1 to 9 inch long tail. Moles have shovel-shaped, five-toed, thick-clawed feet that are very efficient at burrowing. Many moles have a long, powerful tail.

What do they eat? The mole is classified as an **insectivore** (insect-eater); it eats its own weight in food each day. Moles eat insects, earthworms, mice, fish, frogs, small crustaceans, and other small animals. Moles find prey mainly by using their sense of touch.

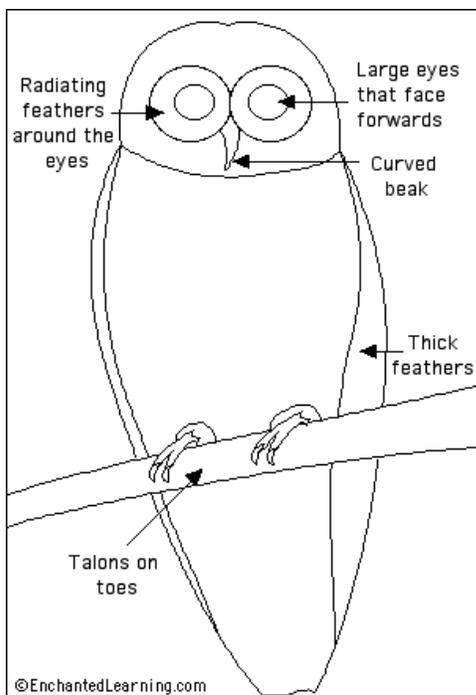


The mouse is a small rodent that is found worldwide in almost every type of environment. Mice can live as long as 6 years in captivity. Most mice build nests in protected nooks, but some burrow into the ground. Many mice are **nocturnal** (most active at night). They are timid, social, and territorial.

What do they look like? Mice range in size from 3 to 14 inches long (including a long tail). They weigh from 1/4 to 2 ounces. The coat color ranges from white to brown to gray. Most mice have a pointed snout with long whiskers, round ears, and thin tails. Many mice scurry along the ground, but some can hop or jump. The mouse's front teeth continue to grow throughout its life. They must gnaw on hard things to keep wearing the teeth down.

What they eat: The mouse is an **omnivore**; it will eat almost anything. It eats grain, seeds, grasses, fruit, roots, stems, and small animals like worms, grasshoppers (and other insects), arachnids, etc.

Predators: Many animals kill mice, including cats, dogs, hawks, owls, weasels, raccoons, snakes, skunks, and people.



There are about 162 different species of owls alive today. They live all over the world in many different types of environments, from the desert to the rain forest.

Smallest and Largest: The smallest owl in the world is the Elf Owl which is about 6.1 inches long, has a wingspan of 15 inches, and weighs about 1.5 ounces. The largest owls are the Great Gray Owls, like the one in our story, which are about 33 inches long, have a wingspan of about 5 feet, and weigh about 3 pounds.

Eyes: Owls have a large head and large eyes that face forwards (unlike other birds, whose eyes are on the sides of their head). This eye placement gives them binocular vision and very precise depth perception. Also, there are circles of radiating feathers surrounding each eye, giving them a wide-eyed, alert look.

Owls cannot move their eyes within their sockets like we can. In order to look around, they have to move their entire head.

What they eat: Owls are **carnivores** (meat-eaters). Most are nocturnal and hunt at night. They use their awesome sight to find prey in the dark (owls see mostly in black and white). They have an acute sense of hearing which also helps in finding meals. Owls are stealth hunters; they can easily sneak up on their prey since their fluffy feathers give them almost silent flight. Owls hunt and eat rodents, insects, frogs, and birds. The owl is at the top of the food web; it has no major predators.