

Dropping Hints

It is sometimes difficult to spot wild animals; you can tell which animals are living around us by their droppings, also called scat.

Some types of scat have distinctive smells; can you match the animal to their scat using the clues?



Dropping Hints



It is sometimes difficult to spot wild animals; usually you need a lot of patience and luck! But we can also tell which animals are living around us by what they leave behind.

Animal droppings are also called scat. By looking for and identifying the scat we can learn which wild animals are living in your area.

Experts can often tell the type of animal from the smell of the scat. How good is your nose? What can you smell?

Using the clues about each animal, can you match it with its scat?



Pine marten

Box _____



Fox

Box _____



Badger

Box _____



Otter

Box _____

Pine marten



Diet

Carnivore – feeding on small rodents, birds, eggs, insects and fruit.

Smell

Parma violets

Habitat

Dense woodland.

Red fox



Diet

Omnivore - will eat most things including mice, insects, reptiles, fruit, birds and dung!

Smell

Described as strong and musky

Habitat

Found wherever food is plentiful, happy to live in towns, cities and countryside.



Badger



Diet

Omnivore - will eat most things including earthworms, small mammals, insects, nesting birds, fruit, which they dig up with their strong front paws.

Smell

Described as sweet and musky

Habitat

Woodlands and hedgerows, also found in parks and gardens



Otter



Diet

Carnivore – feeding mainly on fish, water-birds and amphibians

Smell

Jasmine

Habitat

Rivers, streams, lochs and canals.