

Badger



Badgers in Yellowstone National Park

Badgers' thick, coarse hair is usually gray and black with distinctive white stripes on their elongated faces. They are about 35 inches tall and 20 to 24 pounds. They live for about 12 to 15 years. They are nocturnal and dig with their long, thick claws for a diet of earthworms, insects, and ground rodents like squirrels. They do not hibernate, but they store up fat and spend most of the winter in burrows underground. Even though they dig in the dirt, they are very clean animals. They can run 19 miles per hour in short bursts.

Yellowstone badgers can be seen in the sagebrush of the northern lower elevations. Badgers can be fierce if they feel threatened.



What did you learn about the badgers of Yellowstone?

1. What distinctive markings can be seen on badgers?

Badgers have distinctive white stripes on their faces.

2. Are badgers nocturnal? Do they hibernate?

Badgers are nocturnal, but they do not hibernate.

3. What do badgers use their long, thick claws for? Do you think they use them to make their burrows as well?

Badgers use their claws to dig for food like earthworms and ground squirrels. They do use them to make their burrows as well.

