

Primary Worksheets: Mole



The mole is a small mammal that digs tunnels. The mole family contains over 40 species. Among the places where they are found are Europe, Asia, and the U.S. Moles look a little like mice or squirrels, but they're not rodents.

They live in grasslands, urban areas, gardens, sand dunes, mixed woodlands, or anywhere that has soil in which they can dig tunnels. Acidic soil and mountainous areas tend to repel them.

A mole's main purpose is to dig. In general, their bodies are cylindrical or tube-shaped, and their tails are usually short. Without their tails, they measure about 1.2 inches (3 centimeters) to almost 9 inches (22.5 centimeters).



Primary Worksheets: Mole



They have a flat, pointed head, and long, piglike noses. Because moles have tiny eyes covered by hair and skin, they are only able to see light and dark. The hairs on their noses and tails are extremely sensitive. In the dark, these serve as a guide. Mole feet are wide and flat, with short front legs. Each of the feet has five toes, which are sharp and have long claws.

Moles aren't blind, but they are colorblind and see very poorly. They can only see light and movement. They use little movement and scent sensors on the tip of their nose to find prey and other moles.

Rather than digging through soil, moles swim through it. Using their feet, they move the dirt forward and out to the side. There are two types of tunnels that moles can dig.



Primary Worksheets: Mole



A few moles burrow tunnels as deep as ten feet (3 meters) underground. Moles live in these tunnels. The moles push dirt upward as they dig these deep tunnels, creating molehills above ground.

Tunnels are used by moles to travel, but they are also more than just tunnels. A mole's tunnel ends with a chamber. It can be used as a bedroom, or even for birthing (nest).

It is common for moles to live in a tunnel system for generations before moving on.



Primary Worksheets: Mole



The appetite of a mole is big. Most moles eat earthworms, insects, and other foods they find while traveling through their tunnels. Their favorite food is worms. One mole can eat over 50 pounds of worms in one year. Moles also eat ants, spiders, and grubs.

Female moles give birth to between three and four hairless babies at a time. A mole pup will begin to grow hair by the age of 14 days. A pup is weaned after four to five weeks, and it leaves the nest after 33 days.

After five to six weeks, pups are completely independent from their mother and their home tunnel. The average lifespan of a mole is three years.

Primary Worksheets: Mole

Answer the questions.

What is a mole?

What do they look like?

Where do they like to live?



Primary Worksheets: Mole

Answer the questions.

What do they eat?

How do they travel?

How do they move underground?

