



Badgers in Paganism



Can you find out what this symbol is?

Research any of the words written in blue.

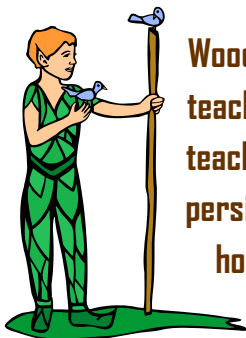
The personality of the badger: The badger is a serious animal, but can be very witty! It only wants to mind its own business, and really can't understand why others don't seem to want to do the same. It's best not to make a badger angry. He will bristle up his fur and bare his huge fangs! They use these teeth to threaten enemies, but would really just like to be left alone.

Use this description to make up a conversation between the badger and another wild animal. It could be an enemy, or just another animal in the forest that needs some good advice from the wise badger. It's up to you.

The badger is thought to be the keeper of knowledge of our Earth. In the sett, beneath the ground she listens as the Earth speaks to her.

The badger is the keeper of stories. She can see deep beneath the surface of everything, and brings the stories she hears up to the surface and tells them to the Earth's children. She is the story-teller of the animal world. She gives us the chance to express our creativity.

Write a *short* story that the badger might have told to the animals in the wood. It might be something that the Earth has told her, deep in the sett, about how the animals should look after the wood in which they live.



Woodland folk listen carefully when the badger teaches them to connect with the Earth. She teaches them to rely upon themselves, and to persist in things they want to do. She shows them how to steer their lives and to reach the end result they want.



1. How connected to the Earth are you? What do you do to help the planet?
2. Can you rely upon yourself to do the right thing and look after yourself or others?
3. Do you persist and do the best you can in everything you do? Sports? School work? Your own personal ambitions?

Of course, the badger is a carnivore, and eats small animals. (In this country, the badger is at the top of the food chain. However, in central Europe, it is still hunted itself by wolves.) As the badger takes in the other animals, she absorbs their own stories and knowledge.

The badger is a happy social animal within her own family group. She is friendly with other animals, but she is also very comfortable with herself.

1. Are you a happy social person?
2. Are you friendly to everyone? What happens if you fall out with someone? What should you do to make it better?
3. Are you comfortable with yourself, or could you change to be a better person?

The badger is a member of the mustelids or family. (Look it up!) She can be cunning when she wants to be. If you annoy her, you'll be sorry! She has hugely powerful jaws, that are articulated, (or joined up, so that they cannot be opened easily!) She has razor sharp claws on her front feet. (Why do you think she has those? What might she use them for?)

If the badger enters your life, perhaps you should think about things. Are you looking carefully enough at what is going on around you? Do you need to get a firmer grip too much? Should you be standing up for what you want a little more? Are you giving way to others? Are you comfortable with yourself, or could you be a better person? Have you become separated from the natural Earth and its animals and spirits?



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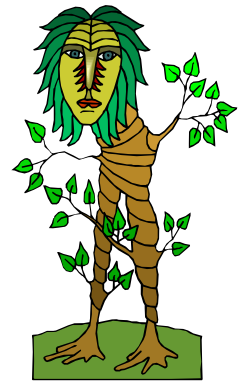
Of course, if the badger becomes your totem animal, you are very lucky! She will help you to live your life the very best way you can. Once you have made a happy and successful life for yourself, she will help you to help others to make their lives a success. She is the keeper of Earth's healing herbs. Perhaps you will become a healer, with help from your badger spirit?

Badgers are good house-keepers. They are very clean and tidy. They often replace the bedding in the sett. If you watch badgers, you might see them walking backwards and dragging straw into the sett. If the badger is your spirit animal, you will be an organised person. Your home will be neat and tidy. (Is your bedroom neat and tidy?!!!!) You know how to use your time for the best. (Homework?!!!!)

The strong jaws of the badger spirit mean that you will become very powerful with words. Your words can be as sharp as a sword or gentle and kind. You should be able to use words as a powerful tool.

Do you use words well? Can you keep to a sensible argument with your friends, or do you become angry too quickly? Can you think of the right thing to say, without being nasty? Can you use words to comfort people? Are you often kind and gentle with friends who are upset? (Think about it!)

Badgers are powerful diggers. They can dig down into the earth with those huge front claws. This connects them to the underworld. This is the land where the mysteries of creation and life are kept. It is the connection to the spirits of animals and plants. Badger people always know just how to live in balance with nature. Do you?

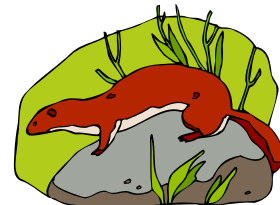
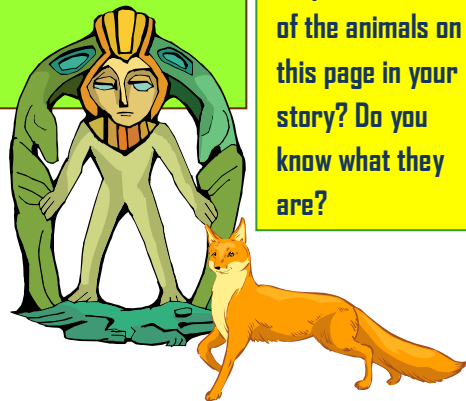


Here are some words and ideas we've used about badgers. Talk about what the words mean. (Can you think of more words?)

Keeper of stories, wise, bold, aggressive, single-minded, cunning, persevering, persistent, grounded, knowledgeable about the Earth, magical, wise, creative, protecting

Could you write a story about the badger as a spirit animal?

Why not use some of the animals on this page in your story? Do you know what they are?



You need never be afraid of the natural world - though it wouldn't be the best idea you ever had to put your fingers in a badger's mouth! **BUT NEVER GO TO THE WOODS ALONE. ALWAYS TELL SOMEONE WHERE YOU ARE.**

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