



## Be a Scientist!

Watch an animal that lives in the ground. Put layers of different colored soil in a jar. Gently place earthworms in the jar. Place small pieces of plants on top of the soil. Let the jar sit overnight.

The next day, check to see how the jar changed. Use words and pictures to show what happened. What else do you want to learn about earthworms?



### Beyond the Book

Is your class going to the zoo? Observe animals that live in tunnels or go underground. Write down what you see. How are the animals able to live underground?

FOCUS Book

## Animals in the Ground



: Science A-Z 🐞

# Animals in the Ground

## FOCUS Question

How do animals live in the ground?

Structure and Function

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## Life Underground

Look down. There are animals in the earth under your feet! Many animals live underground.

It is dark underground. There is not much space to move. How do animals live underground?

American badger





# Star-Nosed Moles

Star-nosed moles live underground.

Their noses look like many tiny fingers. These noses help moles feel other animals moving in the ground. This is how they find food.

Moles have sharp claws to dig.

star-nosed mole



earthworm

close-up of a worm showing its tiny hairs



# Earthworms

Earthworms have no arms or legs. How do they move? They have tiny hairs to grab soil. Then they push their heads or tails through the dirt.

As worms move, they eat soil. Earthworms eat tiny plants and animals in the soil.



**wowser!**

The largest earthworm ever discovered was 6.7 meters (22 ft.) long!

## Worm Snakes

Worm snakes look like earthworms. But they are snakes. They can be found underground or under logs.

Their tails have a sharp point to dig in the soil for food. They eat mostly earthworms.

worm snake



This log might have worm snakes under it!

## Trapdoor Spiders

Trapdoor spiders make small holes in the ground. The holes are called *burrows* (BER-oze). The spiders cover their burrows with rocks. This helps them hide.

When small animals walk by, the ground shakes a bit. The spiders feel the shaking. They spring out of their burrow and catch the animal!

trapdoor spiders







nymph cicada



adult cicada

## Cicadas

Cicadas (sih-KAY-duhs) are flying bugs. They can be very noisy!

Adult cicadas lay eggs in the ground. After the eggs hatch, the young are called *nymphs* (NIMFS). They live in the soil for years. This keeps them safe from animals that might eat them. Later, cicadas grow wings and fly away.

## Ants

Have you ever seen ants busy at work? In the ground, many ants live in a large group. They dig long, skinny holes called *tunnels*.

Ants have feelers on their heads. This helps them find their way in dark tunnels.



# Prairie Dogs



Prairie dogs live in large groups.

Prairie dogs have long hairs on their faces. These are called *whiskers*.

Whiskers help prairie dogs find their way in the dark.

## Math Moment

Ten prairie dogs live in a group. Four baby prairie dogs are born. How many prairie dogs are in the group now?

## Read-Think-Write

Write or draw your answers on separate paper. Use details from the book to support each answer.

- 1 What body part helps a star-nosed mole find food?
- 2 Look at the photo of the earthworm on page 4. How are its hairs different from your own hair?
- 3 Trapdoor spiders live in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A burrows
  - B ant hills
  - C trees
- 4 Which two animals in this book seem the most alike? Why?



## FOCUS Question

How do animals live in the ground?  
Describe how ants and prairie dogs live underground. Tell how they are similar.  
Use writing and pictures.

