

Badgery Science Fun 9

The weight of an adult badger changes throughout the year - depending on how much fat it has stored for the winter months. The amount of fat often depends on how many earthworms it can eat. In warm, wet years, they will be plentiful. In long, hot, dry summers they will move down into the damper soil and the badgers will not be able to get at them. In spring/summer an adult badger's weight will be around 8 to 9 kg, rising to 11 to 14 kg in autumn. (Head/body length is about 750mm, tail 150mm)

Can you draw in the line on the graph to show how the weight changes over a year?
(Print off the sheet.)

Graph to show the weight changes of badgers from February to October									
20									
18									
16									
14									
12									
10									
8									
6									
4									
2									
0									

Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sept Oct

Boar: Feb 11 kg Mar 11 kg Apr 10 kg May 10.5 kg Jun 10.5 kg Jul 11 kg Aug 11.5 kg Sep 13 kg Oct 14 kg

Sow: F 10 kg M 9.5 kg A 9 kg M 8.5 kg J 8 kg J 8.5 kg A 10 kg S 11.5 O 12

During which month did the boar's weight rise most? **Aug to Sept**

The sow's weight dropped from Feb to June. Can you think of a reason why this might be? (Clue: cubs are born in Feb.) **The sow could be feeding cubs on milk. This would take energy**

When were both animals heaviest? **October**

Why do you think that might be? **They need to be heavy to last through the winter.**