The Honey Badger

by Guy Belleranti

The honey badger likes sweet honey, but it does not have a sweet personality.

A member of the weasel family, this mammal was named the "most fearless animal in the world" by The Guinness Book of Records. Why? Not because of its size. The largest male usually weighs less than 30 pounds, and females weigh half of that. However, both have powerful jaws, razor sharp teeth, knifelike front claws and thick, tough, loose skin. If grabbed by



an attacker the honey badger can still twist around and bite itself free. In addition, it can make a terrible stink with its scent glands.

The honey badger is also called a ratel. It lives in southern Africa, the Middle East and India. It sleeps in burrows, rock crevices, old termite mounds and the dens of other animals.

The honey badger eats scorpions spiders insects amphibians and reptiles birds, rodents,

hares and other some prey out c

It even cl larvae and hone angry bees atta



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provides protection from painful bee stingers.

The honey badger is so fearless that it even eats porcupines and venomous snakes like puff adders and king cobras! They have also been known to take young cheetahs out of dens and to steal the food away from much larger animals like lions and leopards! While it uses it tough personality to hunt all types of animals, this fearless predator sometimes eats melons and berries as well.

The honey badger is a solitary animal. This means it lives alone most of the time. However,

females also spend lots of time being good mothers.

The mother gives birth to one, or rarely, two, young in a den she has dug. The father is long gone by this time and takes no part in caring for the cub. Mom carries her cub from one den to another every few days. At three months the cub joins mom on searches for food and begins to learn hunting skills. The cub reaches adult size at eight months and remains with mom for over a

year.

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of the animal's reach.



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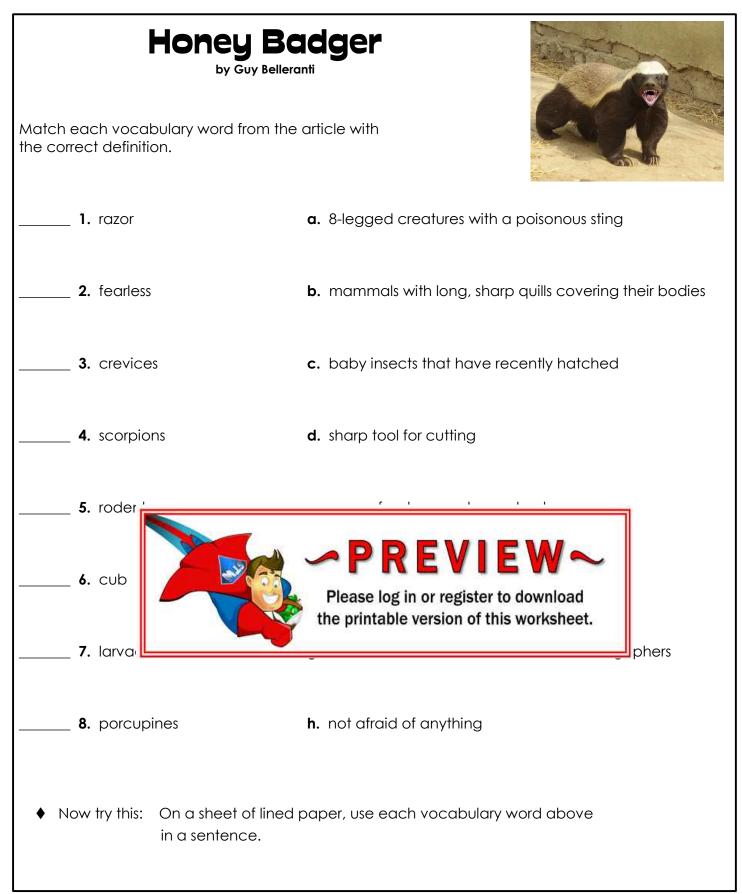
About the Author

Guy Belleranti works as a docent at Reid Park Zoo in Tucson, Arizona. The information in this article comes from his experiences working with wild animals and teaching others.

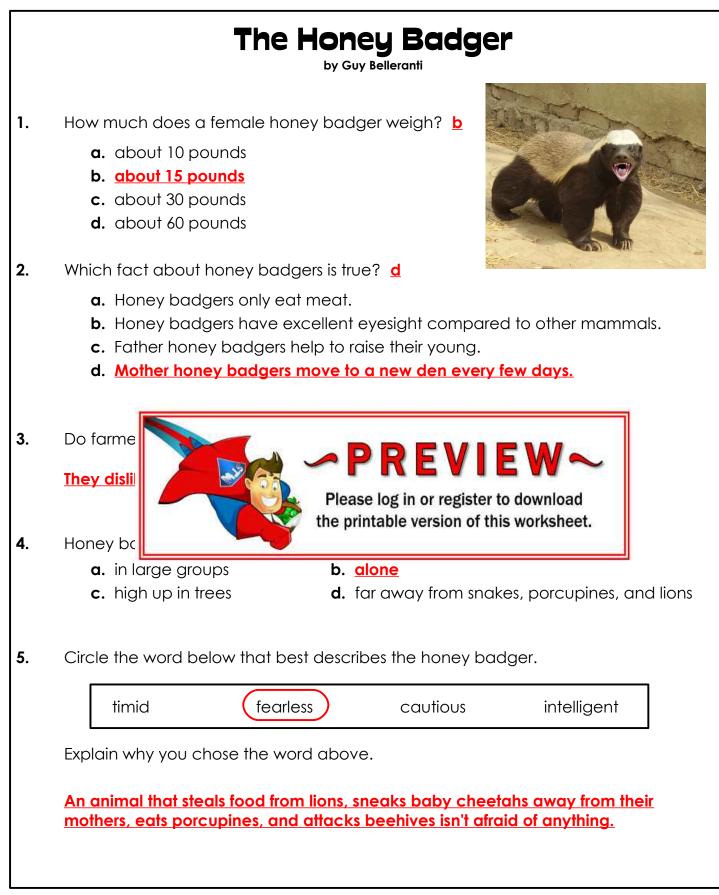


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a. about 10	pounds	-	1 AR	S
b. about 15				
c. about 30			X 10	
d. about 60	pounds			
Which fact abo	ut honey badgers is tru	ne;		
a. Honey bo	dgers only eat meat.			
b. Honey bo	idgers have excellent	eyesight compare	ed to other mamma	als.
	ney badgers help to r			
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d. Mother he		o a new den every	EW~	
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