

5-for-5 Reading

Test Three

Magnificent Moles

Have you ever seen strange heaps of soil appear in a local park or on your school field? Created by small, tunnelling mammals, these molehills can be seen by some as a messy nuisance. For others, it's exciting evidence that a mole has been to visit. Although many people living in Britain have never seen a mole, there are estimated to be over 30 million of them living in the ground beneath our feet!

Moles are carnivores and live mainly on a diet of earthworms and insect larvae. They spend the majority of their lives underground, tunnelling through soft earth. With large, spade-like forearms and a highly sensitive sense of smell and touch, these creatures are perfectly adapted for a life of tunnelling beneath the ground. Although only growing to around 14cm in length, moles are experienced hunters and have even been known to save live prey for later consumption. This is made possible due to the fact that their saliva contains a toxin that is capable of paralysing earthworms.

The next time that you see a molehill, take a moment to think about the amazing animal that created it!



1

Some people see molehills as a messy nuisance. According to the text, how might other people feel differently about molehills?

☐

2

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a **fact** or an **opinion**.

	Fact	Opinion
Moles are carnivores who eat earthworms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moles are amazing animals.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Moles grow to around 14cm in length.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3

Name **two** ways in which moles are adapted for a life of tunnelling underground.

1. _____

2. _____

4

How are moles able to paralyse earthworms?

5

Which of the following would be the most suitable summary for the whole text?

Tick **one**.

The Molehill Maker ☐

Mammals of Europe ☐

Large Carnivores of Britain ☐

Moles Around the World ☐

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