

# Water vole sentences – How to Play & Answers

## Famhalan-uisge

Match the correct Gaelic sentence to the water vole photos.

### Resources:

6 photos with English sentence

6 Gaelic sentence cards

### ANSWERS



The water vole is brown.

Tha am famhalan-uisge donn.



The water vole lives in a burrow.

Tha am famhalan-uisge a' fuireach ann an toll.



The water vole likes to eat brambles.

Is toil leis am famhalan-uisge smeuran ithe.



The water vole likes to eat grass.

Is toil leis am famhalan-uisge feur ithe.



The water vole is small.

Tha am famhalan-uisge beag.



The water vole likes to swim.

Is toil leis am famhalan-uisge a bhith a' snàmh.

## Gaelic vocabulary

**famhalan** – vole  
**uisge** - water



Tha am famhalan-uisge donn.

**donn** - brown



Tha am famhalan-uisge a' fuireach ann an toll.

**fuireach** – living  
**an toll** – hole/burrow



Is toil leis am famhalan-uisge smeuran ithe.

**smeuran** – brambles  
**ithe** – eating



Is toil leis am famhalan-uisge feur ithe.

**feur** – grass



Tha am famhalan-uisge beag.

**beag** - small



Tha am famhalan-uisge a bhith a' snàmh.

**snàmh** – swim

## **Water vole – additional information**

The water vole is a large vole but smaller than the common rat. It has a much rounder face, smaller ears and eyes and a much shorter furry tail than the rat. Most are a chestnut brown colour but can be black in some parts of Scotland. Sometimes people can mistake the vole for a rat and this isn't helped by the confusing common name of 'water rat'. 'Ratty' in the story 'Wind and the Willows' is actually a water vole.

The water vole is active throughout the year and at all times of the day but spends less time outside of the burrow in the winter. They eat grasses and lots of other plants along the waterside.

The water vole used to be common across Scotland and then the numbers fell dramatically in the 1990's. Habitats have been destroyed by development, agriculture and pollution but one of the main causes is the non-native introduced American mink. A non-native introduced species means an animal that did not historically live in the area and was deliberately introduced. American mink were originally brought to the UK for their fur. Some escaped and they spread in the wild. They are very good predators and the water voles usual defence of diving underwater and kicking up a screen of dirt doesn't deter the American mink. Sometimes the water vole is not even safe in the burrow as a female mink can fit into the burrow and then wipe out the entire family. American mink are being controlled.