**Foxes**



**By Imogen T**

**Content**

* **Foxes**
* **Red Foxes**
* **Arctic Foxes**
* **Fennec Foxes**
* **Glossary**

**Foxes**

A fox’s main diet is rodents and small animals but their diet can be flexible as they will eat fruit and invertebrates. They are omnivorous animals with upright triangular ears, a slightly upturned snout, a flattened skull and a long bushy tail.



**Red Foxes**

Red foxes are the largest of the true foxes. They can be identified by the red colour of their fur. When in the wild, their lifespan is 2-5 years and their mass is 2.2-14kg (adult). You can often hear mating calls which is a high-pitched shrieking noise. They catch small rodents with a characteristic pounce. This hunting technique is one of the first things cubs learn as they begin to hunt.



**Arctic Foxes**

The arctic fox, also known as the white fox, polar fox or the snow fox, is a small species native to the arctic region. The mass of an average male fox is 3.2-9.4kg and the average mass of a female is 1.4-3.2kg. In the wild, their average lifespan is 3-4 years whereas in captivity their average lifespan is 14 years.



**Fennec Foxes**

The fennec fox is also known as a desert fox and weigh around 0.7-1.6kg. On average, they are 20.3 cm (8 inches) tall and 24-41 cm (9-16 inches) in body length. This species is found in North Africa and Asia. A fennec fox’s typical den is dug in the sand, either in open areas or places shaded by plants with stable sand dunes.



**Glossary**

* **Average** typical or most common
* **Characteristic** main or most important feature
* **Diet**  what it eats
* **Lifespan**  how long something lives
* **Mass** the weight of something
* **Mating call** the sound an animal makes when trying to find a mate
* **Native** originally from somewhere
* **Omnivorous** eats plants and meat
* **Rodent** small mammal
* **Snout** an animals nose
* **Species** a group of animals which are the same type
* **Technique** a style or method