

The Wind in the Willows - Chapter 4 - Badger's Underground Home

Task 1: Listen to Chapter 4 - There is a detailed description of Badgers underground home.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/school-radio/english-ks2-the-wind-in-the-willows-episode-4-mr-badger/z4hbcsww>

Here is link to the transcript if you wish to read along

http://teach.files.bbci.co.uk/schoolradio/witw_04_transcript.pdf

Task 2 - Excerpts from Chapter 4

He shuffled on in front of them, carrying the light, and they followed him, down a long, gloomy, and, to tell the truth, decidedly shabby passage, into a sort of central hall; out of which they could dimly see other long tunnel-like passages branching, passages mysterious and without apparent end. But there were doors in the hall as well - stout oaken comfortable-looking doors. One of these the Badger flung open, and at once they found themselves in all the glow and warmth of a large fire-lit kitchen. The floor was well-worn red brick, and on the wide hearth burnt a fire of logs in the middle of the room stood a long table of plain boards placed on trestles, with benches down each side.

Rows of spotless plates winked from the shelves at the far end of the room and from the rafters overhead hung hams, bundles of dried herbs, nets of onions, and baskets of eggs.

The kindly Badger thrust them down on a settee to toast themselves at the fire, and bade them remove their wet coats and boots. Then he fetched them dressing-gowns and slippers, and himself bathed the Mole's shin with warm water and mended the cut with sticking-plaster till the whole thing was just as good as new, if not better.

...He conducted the two animals to a long room that seemed half bedchamber and half loft.

The Badger's winter stores, which indeed were visible everywhere, took up half the room - piles of apples, turnips, and potatoes, baskets full of nuts, and jars of honey; but the two little white beds on the remainder of the floor looked soft and inviting, and the linen on them, though coarse, was clean and smelt beautifully of lavender; and the Mole and the Water Rat, shaking off their garments in some thirty seconds, tumbled in between the sheets in great joy and contentment.

...This explanation, of course, was thoroughly understood by everyone present. The animals knew well that Badger, having eaten a hearty breakfast, had retired to his study and settled himself in an arm-chair with his legs up on another and a red cotton handkerchief over his face, and was being 'busy' in the usual way at this time of the year.

...After lunch, accordingly, the Badger lighted a lantern and bade the Mole follow him. Crossing the hall, they passed down one of the tunnels, and the wavering light of the lantern gave glimpses on either side of rooms both large and small, some mere cupboards, others nearly as broad and imposing as Toad's dining-hall.

Task 3: Label the diagram of Mole's home (each circle is a room, connected by tunnels). Write each room is and what you would expect to find in the room. The **Central Hall** has been labelled for you.

