

Moles



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Did you ever walk across a lawn and find a mound in the dirt? It may have been made by a mole. Moles have rounded bodies and thick, soft fur that's usually black or gray. They are about six inches long and weigh about six ounces. Their eyes are tiny because they live underground, where they don't need to see well. Instead, moles have strong senses of hearing,

smell, and touch. They use these senses to find food and stay safe.

Moles use their short powerful legs, broad front feet, and sharp claws to burrow through the ground. Their long, pointed nose is hard, and it extends far beyond their mouth. Moles use their nose to loosen the earth. Then they use their claws to scratch and their feet to shovel the earth out to the sides of their body. Moles are sometimes said to be the best diggers in the animal world.

Moles burrow along at speeds as fast as four miles

per hour. In addition, moles can move both backwards and forwards in their tunnels. This helps them escape from danger.

Moles build tunnels near the surface and deep underground. They build warm dry nests in their tunnels to sleep and to raise their babies. They also build areas to store food.

Moles like to eat earthworms and grubs, and they find these animals as they burrow along. People sometimes think of moles as pests because they can destroy a lawn. However, moles help gardeners, too, by eating insects that harm plants.

When moles enter or leave their tunnel, they pile up dirt into mounds called mole hills. These mounds contain dirt the mole has dug out of the ground. So, the next time you see a mound in a lawn, look carefully.

If you wait patiently, you might see a mole peeking out.



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