

Source A

You will need a copy of the article 'Badgers fall prey to blood sport revival' from *The Observer* which you can find here: www.theguardian.com/uk/2002/jun/16/theobserver.uknews

Source B

This is an eye witness account of rat-baiting events in October 1822, which was published in *The Sporting Magazine*.

Thursday night, Oct. 24, at a quarter before eight o'clock, the lovers of rat-killing enjoyed a feast of delight in a prodigious raticide at the Cockpit, Westminster. The place was crowded. The famous dog Billy, of rat-killing notoriety, 26 lbs. weight, was wagered, for twenty sovereigns, to kill one hundred rats in twelve minutes. The rats were turned out loose at once in a 12-feet square, and the floor whitened, so that the rats might be visible to all. The set-to began, and Billy exerted himself to the utmost. At four minutes and three quarters, as the hero's head was covered with gore, he was removed from the pit, and his chaps being washed, he lapped some water to cool his throat. Again he entered the arena, and in vain did the unfortunate victims labour to obtain security by climbing against the sides of the pit, or by crouching beneath the hero. By twos and threes they were caught, and soon their mangled corpses proved the valour of the victor. Some of the flying enemy, more valiant than the rest, endeavoured by seizing this heroic dog by the ears, to procure a respite, or to sell their life as dearly as possible; but his grand paw soon swept off the buzzers, and consigned them to their fate.

At seven minutes and a quarter, or according to another watch, for there were two umpires and two watches, at seven minutes and seventeen seconds, the victor relinquished the glorious pursuit, for all his foes lay slaughtered on the ensanguined plain. Billy was then caressed and fondled by many; the dog is estimated by amateurs as a most dextrous animal; he is, unfortunately, what the French Monsieurs call borgne, that is, blind of an eye. This precious organ was lost to him some time since by the intrepidity of an inimical rat, which as he had not seized it in a proper place, turned round on its murderer, and reprimed him by one bite of the privilege of seeing with two eyes in future.

The dog BILLY, of rat-killing notoriety, on the evening of the 13th instant, again exhibited his surprising dexterity; he was wagered to kill one hundred rats within twelve minutes; but six minutes and twenty five seconds only elapsed, when every rat lay stretched on the gory plain, without the least symptom of life appearing.' Billy was decorated with a silver collar, and a number of ribband bows, and was led off amidst the applauses of the persons assembled."

Glossary

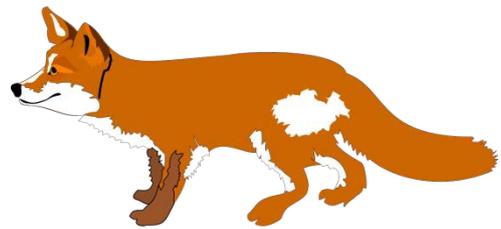
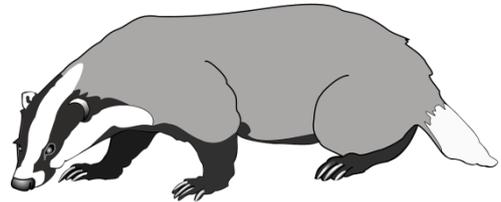
Prodigious	unusual, remarkable
Raticide	the murder of rats
Relinquished	gave up
Ensanguined	covered in blood
Inimical	unfriendly, hostile

Tasks

1. Read again Source A, from the start to ‘It has become very prevalent in the last few months after dying off in the Eighties and Nineties,’ said Spamer.

Choose **four** statements below which are **true**.

- a. A reward of £100 will be paid for information leading to a conviction for badger baiting.
- b. The badger is Britain’s largest carnivorous mammal.
- c. The death toll is far higher than that of foxes killed through hunting.
- d. The RSPCA are launching a national campaign.
- e. Five convictions were made in Scotland.
- f. There were many killings in Wales.
- g. Badger baiting died off in the Seventies.



2. You need to refer to source A and source B for this question:

Use details from both sources. Write a summary of the different ways that people are involved in badger and rat baiting.



3. You now need to refer only to Source B. How does the writer use language to describe Billy the dog?

4. For this question, you need to refer to the whole of Source A together with Source B.

Compare how the two writers convey their different attitudes to animal baiting.

In your answer, you could:

- compare their different attitudes
- compare the methods they use to convey their attitudes
- support your ideas with references to both texts.