

Wood Mice

There are more wood mice in England than there are dogs. There are more wood mice than there are cats or sheep or squirrels. There are more wood mice than there are people. In England, there are more wood mice than there are any other kind of mammal! These little guys are sometimes called field mice and that's one place where they like to live: fields. They also live in the woods, mountains, and gardens. But gardeners don't much care for these animals. That's because wood mice have a really strong sense of smell. When a gardener plants a seed, a wood mouse can sniff it down in the dirt. And, quick as a wink, the mouse can dig it right out! Besides stealing seeds from gardens, wood mice like to eat nuts and fruit. They creep out of their burrows at night to look for food. Wood mice take the food back to the tunnels they've dug underground. They stuff their burrows with berries and seeds so they will have enough to eat in the winter. They run, leap, and climb as they search—they are very good climbers. Wood mice must be careful when they leave their burrows. Owls, foxes, badgers, and even cats are hunting for a tasty mouse snack. That is why wood mice like dark, moonless nights when they go out. Their large ears and big eyes help them find their way around.

	day 1	day 2	day 3	day 4
words read in 1 minute				
– number of mistakes				
= total words read correctly				
adult initials				

Parent Tips

Many students confuse fluent reading with fast reading. Fluency is more than just reading quickly, it also requires accuracy and expression. If your child is racing through the passage like a robot, point out that reading should sound like talking. Pauses at punctuation marks are a necessity. The student's voice should show emotion and liveliness. Try reading the passage to your child to show him what it should sound like.

1. What is the main idea of this passage?
 - Wood mice have big ears and eyes so they can see and hear well.
 - There are more wood mice than dogs so people don't like them.
 - There are lots of wood mice and they are good at gathering food.
2. Gardeners don't like wood mice _____.
 - because they dig tunnels
 - because they eat seeds
 - because they scare birds
3. Which of these would eat a wood mouse?
 - a fox
 - a sheep
 - a squirrel
4. This week's passage and last week's passage were both about mice. How were they different?

