

Rats!

Activity 1

With your partner write two definitions of the word 'rat' below.

1)

2)

Activity 2

Fill the gaps in the sentences below with the following words and phrases in the correct form.

to rat on someone to smell a rat ratty
rat's tails the rat race a rat ratbag Rats!

1. Would you like to get out of and have a less frantic lifestyle?
2. What do you do when you feel irritable, bad-tempered and
3. Do you know anyone whose hair is always in
4. What do you think of people who their friends or colleagues? In what circumstances might it be all right to betray someone's trust or to inform on someone?
5. Do you know anyone who is a What makes her so unpleasant?
6. Do you know anyone who is How do you know this man is untrustworthy?
7. Do you ever say '.....' when you are annoyed? If not, what do you say instead?
8. How do you know when there is something suspicious going on? What do you do when you

Activity 3

Ask your partner the questions in Activity 2.

Activity 4

Discuss the following statements with your partner and decide if they are true or false.

1. In some cities the rat population is higher than the human one.
2. Rats can't vomit.
3. Most rats are unable to carry the rabies virus.
4. Rats can see in colour.
5. Rats like cheese.
6. Rats can swim.
7. Rats can jump over 1 metre high.
8. Rats can run faster than human beings.

Activity 5

Work with your partner to answer the following multiple choice questions.

1. How much of the world's food crop do rats damage every year? a) 10% b) 20% c) 30%
2. How long do rats usually live? a) 2 or 3 years b) 4 or 5 years c) 6 or 7 years
3. What are baby rats called? a) cubs b) kittens c) puppies
4. What is a group of rats called? a) a herd b) a flock c) a mischief
5. Which word is used to categorise rats? a) feline b) reptile c) rodent

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Activity 6

Go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Homework' icon. Use the information you find there to answer the questions below.

1. What two characteristics of 'super rats' does the TP Homework article mention?
2. What is unusual about rats' front incisor teeth?
3. When were rats first used in medical experiments?
4. What is the answer to the Quick Quiz?

Activity 7

'Who cares if rats are used in laboratory experiments?'

If you would like to express your opinion on this subject go to **EnglishClub.com** and click on the 'TP Discussion' icon to take part in the forum discussion there.

N.B. Netiquette! PLEASE CHANGE THE DEFAULT SUBJECT LINE TO INDICATE THE OPINIONS IN YOUR POST BECAUSE IN A BUSY THREAD IT HELPS PEOPLE DECIDE WHICH POSTS TO READ!

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