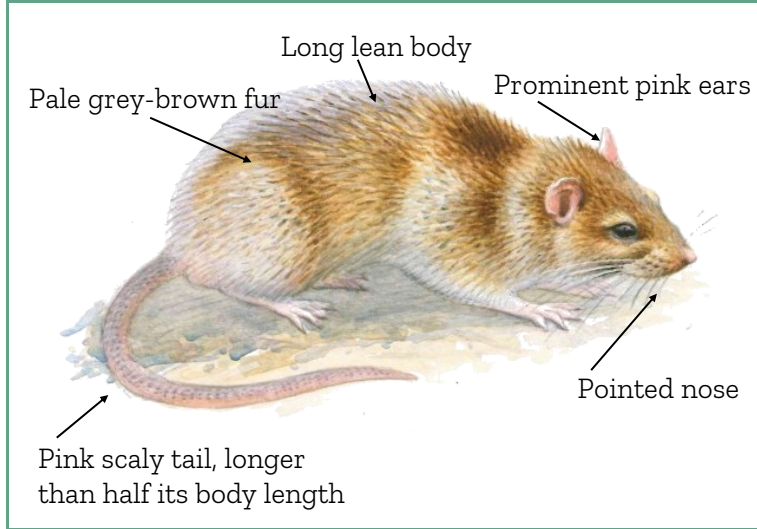
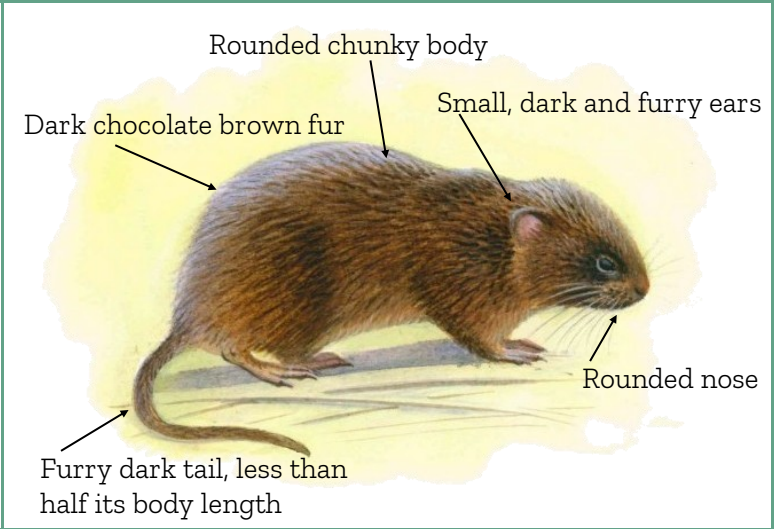


Brown rat (<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>)	Water vole (<i>Arvicola amphibius</i>)
	
<p>Long and lean body with pale grey-brown fur which is grey-white on the flanks and belly. Pink, prominent ears, a pointed nose and a pink and scaly tail.</p>	<p>Chunky body with dark chocolate brown fur that is reddish on the back and greyer on the stomach area. Small, brown ears and a rounded nose, and a short brown tail that is covered in fur.</p>
<p>Size: 21-29cm long Weight: 500g</p>	<p>Size: 24-33cm long Weight: 240g-330G</p>
<p>What to look for in water? Rats swim low in the water with a clear hip sway movement and only their head and hips are visible. They will not dive if alarmed.</p>	<p>What to look for in water? Water voles swim well and are very buoyant. Their bodies float high above the water and do not sway. They dive and make a 'plop' sound if alarmed.</p>
<p>Other field signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smelly, oval black droppings with a pointy end, singularly or in pairs. • Five-toed footprints, larger than a water vole's. Star-shaped if in soft mud but tend to be more forward-facing. Rear footprints have a long heel and the tail sometimes leaves a trail behind. • Burrow entrances are usually connected by rat runs and have piles of excavated soil outside. 	<p>Other field signs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Piles of odourless, oval, green-brown droppings with blunt ends. • Star-shaped five-toed footprints that are similar to a rat's but smaller and more splayed with no tail trail. • Burrows in the riverbank that may be above or below water level, often with a nibbled lawn of grass nearby. • Small piles of vegetation stems cut at a 45-degree angle. • Runs along the riverbank (not the same as rat runs between burrows)



Differences between rats and water voles - Activity sheet

Using the 'Differences between rats and water voles' guide, can you identify the animals below by their special features and explain why?



1. This is a... (circle your answer)

Water vole **Brown rat**

Because...

2. This is a...

Water vole **Brown rat**

Because...



3. This is a...

Water vole **Brown rat**

Because...



4. This is a...

Water vole **Brown rat**

Because...

