

# PCN<sup>®</sup> junior

The Magazine for Budding Pest Controllers

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issue **7**

## WINTER EDITION

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# WELCOME



## The Magazine for Budding Pest Controllers

Welcome to issue 7 of PCN Junior, a magazine brought to you by the creators of Pest Control News.

This issue of PCN Junior is all about the humby mole, *Talpa europaea*. Dive into the season with exciting activities and delicious baking recipes. Get your hands on this new edition of PCN and enjoy!

## WINTER WORD SEARCH

X	E	A	R	T	H	W	O	R	M	S	U
F	E	M	O	L	E	H	I	L	L	S	M
E	Q	S	S	D	H	V	F	K	G	U	S
R	L	T	J	I	L	Q	F	M	R	G	D
U	D	J	Y	G	R	R	L	O	A	F	O
Z	Z	U	F	S	I	O	S	L	S	C	M
J	M	N	H	Q	M	D	G	E	S	I	Z
R	N	F	S	O	I	L	T	B	K	K	K

**Mole**  
**Molehills**  
**Soil**

**Grass**  
**Talpa europaea**  
**Dig**

**Earthworms**

Words can be forwards, backwards, up, down and diagonal.

# Meet the Mole



Moles are fascinating creatures with unique features that make them easy to spot. They have a round body covered in soft, velvety, grey-black fur. Their front claws are shaped like spades, perfect for digging tunnels. Moles also have tiny eyes and a pink, pointy snout.

Even though moles may not be everyone's favourite, they play an essential role in nature. They live underground and can dig up to 20 meters in a day! When they dig, they create little hills of soil on the surface called molehills. Inside their tunnels, moles make big rooms lined with dry grass for resting. These tunnels are passed down through several generations of moles.



Moles mostly like to be on their own, except during the time they have babies. Female moles can give birth to up to five tiny moles during the summer.

There are various species of moles, and their appearance and habits can vary. Common species include the Eastern Mole, European Mole, and Star-nosed Mole, known for its unique star-shaped nose.



Moles enjoy eating earthworms and insect larvae, which they find in the soil.

## Here are some quick facts about Moles, *Talpa europaea*

Natural habitats: Lawns, grassy areas, meadows, and woodlands. Remember, moles are incredible little tunnelling experts that keep our soil healthy, even though they might sometimes cause a bit of mischief in gardens and farms.

# Colour me in!



# The Mole Family Adventure

Once upon a time, in a green countryside, there was a joyful mole family. Mama Mole, Papa Mole, and their three little moles, Max, Mia, and Molly, lived in a snug burrow under a farm. They loved their home with secret tunnels and cozy rooms, and every day they explored the earth.

The moles were kind and didn't mean to be a pest. But the farmer saw that they were making a bit of a mess with their molehills. He worried they might spoil his hard work, so he asked them to leave.

The moles felt sad because this was their home and they didn't want to leave. Mama and Papa Mole thought long and hard, but they felt they had no choice. "We'll find a new home, and it will be an exciting adventure!" said Papa Mole, trying to be positive.

The mole family traveled through fields, streams, and forests, searching for the perfect spot. They met a wise old owl and a friendly rabbit who encouraged them. "Change can bring good things," said the owl. "You'll find your place," said the rabbit. These words made them feel better.

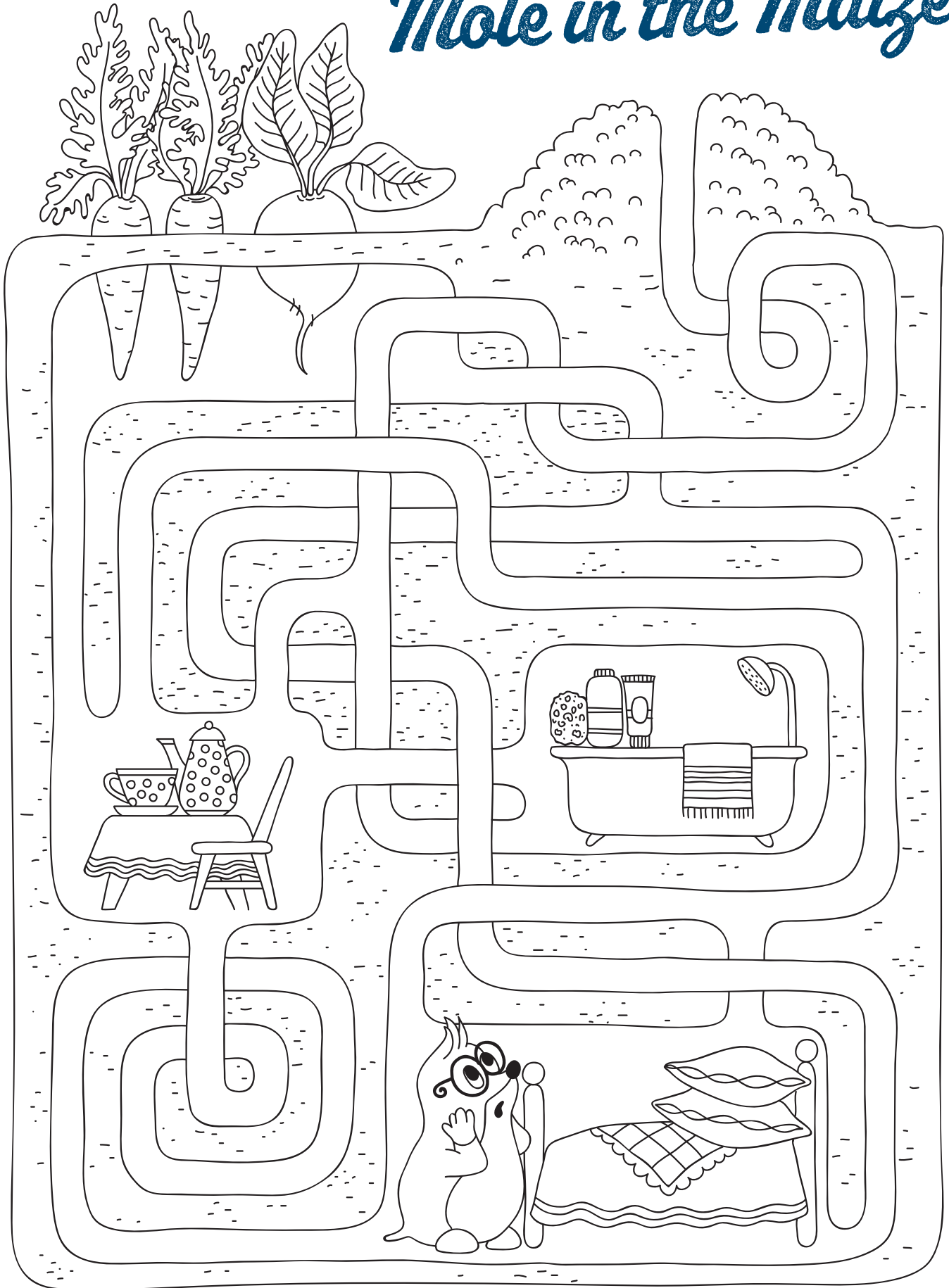
After days of travel, they found a beautiful hill with soft grass and colorful flowers. It was far from farms, and perfect for digging tunnels. "This is our new home!" Mama Mole said happily.

Together, they dug a new tunnels and made themselves at home. Max, Mia, and Molly made friends with other animals. The whole community welcomed them, and they played, ate, and helped together.

The farmer saw something amazing. Without the moles, his crops grew even better! He had fewer pests bothering them. The moles were happy in their new home, with true friends who liked them just as they were.

The moles were happy, and their hill was filled with love and joy forever. The moles learned how important it was not to be scared of change because sometimes it can lead to great things.

# Mole in the Maize





# Re-use & Recycle



## Let's get started:

### You'll need:

Empty toilet paper tube, marker/pencil, paint, scissors

First, take your cardboard rolls and gently flatten them a bit. This way, you'll know where to draw your tree shapes. You can use different rolls to create trees of various sizes, which will make your decoration look even more interesting!

Use the marker or pencil to draw the tree shape on the cardboard. You can make it however you like, but make sure to leave a flat bottom so your tree can stand up. I left about 1-2 cm's at the bottom of each roll.

Carefully cut along the lines you drew, but make sure to keep some parts of the roll connected to the tree. This will help the tree stay balanced and make it easier to paint without the cardboard getting too wet. For example, you can keep the tips of the tree branches connected even after cutting out the tree shape.

After cutting, gently "fluff" out your tree a little to make the bottom part rounded again, so it can stand up properly. You might need to pinch or fold it in the opposite direction it was before to bring it back to shape.

Now comes the fun part! Grab your favourite paint colours and paint them all with your unique designs.

When you're done painting, you can set up your trees on your mantle or arrange them in little groups around your house.

Enjoy making your own cardboard tree decorations and have fun decorating your home with them!

Take Extra care when using scissors and always ask an adult for supervision.

# Rice crispy Mice

*Our Mice rice crispy treats are a tasty blend of crispy cereal coated in chocolate, topped with a cute mouse face made from chocolate and pretzels. So, let's gather our ingredients and have some fun!*



*Recipe makes twelve Mice'*

## *What You Will Need:*

- 150g milk chocolate
- 50g butter
- 2 tbsp honey
- 120g rice crispy cereal

## *For the Decorations*

- 24 pretzels
- 24 edible candy eyeballs
- 12 red smarties



# Now here is the Method:



1. Prepare a 12-hole muffin tin by lining it with muffin cases.
2. Break the chocolate into pieces and place them in a large microwave-safe bowl.
3. Add the butter and honey to the bowl, then microwave in short bursts of around 30 seconds, stirring in between, until the chocolate is melted. Be cautious not to overheat.
4. Thoroughly mix the ingredients, then introduce the rice crispy cereal into the bowl.
5. Gently combine until the cereal is fully coated with the chocolate mixture.
6. Spoon the mixture into the muffin tin, divide it equally amongst the 12 cases.
7. Act promptly and adorn each crispy cake with 2 pretzels, 2 edible candy eyeballs, and a red smartie. This will create the mouse ears, eyes, and nose.
8. Once decorated, place the crispy cakes in the refrigerator to chill for about an hour until set.

*Send us a picture of your masterpiece to  
[editor@pestcontrolnews.com](mailto:editor@pestcontrolnews.com).*



To win this plush toy, draw your best mole in the box below and send it to [editor@pestcontrolnews.com](mailto:editor@pestcontrolnews.com)



A large, empty rectangular box with a red border, intended for drawing a mole.

