

Hedgehogs



What Does a Hedgehog Look Like?

Hedgehogs are small, prickly animals. They have lots of stiff spines on their bodies.

Hedgehogs curl up into a prickly ball when they feel frightened.

Hedgehog Facts

- Hedgehogs hibernate as they sleep in the winter. They make a nest with grass, leaves and moss. It can be under a hedge or within a pile of logs.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal so they are active at night.
- Hedgehogs are mammals. They give birth to live young and feed them milk.
- A baby hedgehog is called a hoglet.



What Do Hedgehogs Eat?

Hedgehogs eat worms, slugs, snails, insects and caterpillars. They will also eat berries and fruits.



Questions

1. What do hedgehogs look like? Tick one.

- small and smooth
- small and prickly
- small and rough

2. What do hedgehogs do when they feel frightened? Tick one.

- bite
- run away
- curl up in a ball

3. Where can a hedgehog nest be? Tick one.

- up a tree
- under a hedge
- on a cliff

4. Which of the following words describes an animal that is active at night?

Tick one.

- nocturnal
- mammal
- hibernate

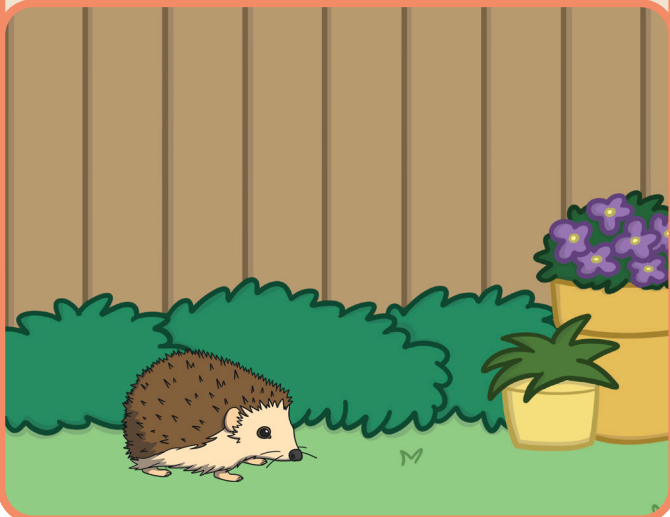
5. Which of the following do hedgehogs **not** eat? Tick one.

- caterpillars
- mice
- slugs

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are small, prickly animals that live in most parts of the UK. They live in different habitats, such as woodland and farmland. They can also be found living in gardens.



What Does a Hedgehog Look Like?

Hedgehogs are almost fully covered in stiff spines. Their faces, legs and the underside of their bodies do not have spines. They are covered in hair instead. Hedgehogs have a very short tail.



Fun Fact

A hedgehog has over 5000 spines.



Did You Know...?

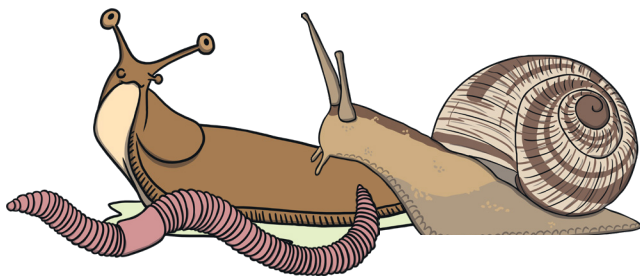
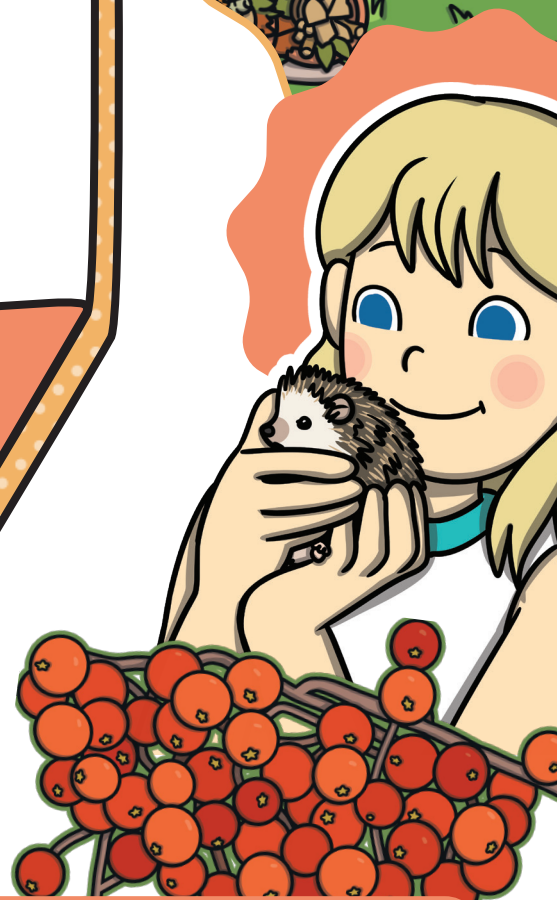
Hedgehogs curl up into a prickly ball when they feel frightened. This is to protect themselves against predators. A predator is an animal that might want to eat them.

Hedgehogs



Hedgehog Facts

- Hedgehogs hibernate. This means they sleep in the winter. They sleep in a nest in a sheltered place, such as under a hedge or within a pile of logs. Their nests are made with grass, leaves and moss.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal so they are active at night.
- Hedgehogs are mammals as they give birth to live young and feed them milk.



Did-You-Know...?

A baby hedgehog is called a hoglet.

What Do Hedgehogs Eat?

Hedgehogs cannot see very well so they look for food using their good sense of smell. They eat worms, slugs, snails, insects and caterpillars. They will also eat berries and fruits.

Questions

1. What do hedgehogs do when they feel frightened? Tick one.

- run away
- fight
- curl up in a ball
- bite

2. Number the sentences from 1-3 to show the order in which they appear in the text.

- Hedgehogs are almost fully covered in stiff spines.
- Hedgehogs are small, prickly animals that live in most parts of the UK.
- Hedgehogs have a very short tail.

3. Draw **three** lines to make each fact correct.

Hedgehogs hibernate...

so they are active at night.

Hedgehogs are mammals...

which means they sleep in the winter.

Hedgehogs are nocturnal...

as they give birth to live young and feed them milk.

4. Fill in the missing word.

Hedgehogs cannot see very well so they look for food using their good sense of _____.

5. What is a baby hedgehog called?

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are small, prickly animals that live in most parts of the UK. They live in different habitats including woodland and farmland and can even be found living in gardens.

What Does a Hedgehog Look Like?

Hedgehogs are a small, rounded shape and are easily recognisable as their bodies are almost completely covered in stiff spines. Their faces, legs and the underside of their bodies are the only parts without spines and are covered in hair instead. Hedgehogs have a very short tail.

Fun Fact

A hedgehog has over 5000 spines.

Hedgehog Facts

- Hedgehogs hibernate. This means they sleep through the winter. They sleep in a nest in a sheltered place, such as under a hedge or within a pile of logs. Their nests are made with grass, leaves and moss.
- Hedgehogs are nocturnal so they are active at night.
- Hedgehogs are mammals as they give birth to live young and feed them milk.

Did You Know...?

Hedgehogs curl up into a prickly ball when they feel threatened. This is to defend themselves against predators.



Hedgehogs



Did You Know...?

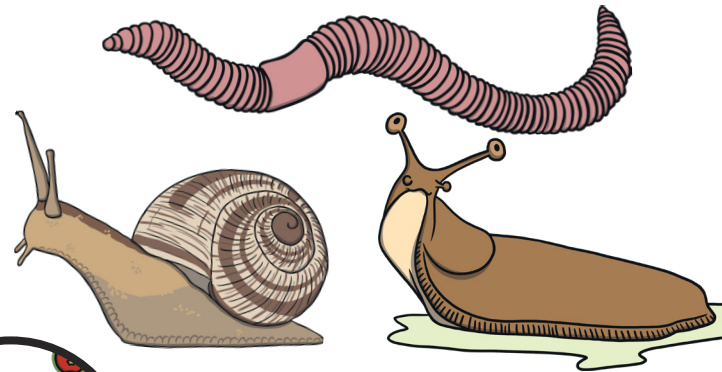
A baby hedgehog is called a hoglet.



What Do Hedgehogs Eat?

Hedgehogs have poor eyesight so they forage for food using their excellent hearing and sense of smell. They are **omnivores** so they eat worms, slugs, snails, insects and caterpillars. They will also eat berries and fruits.

Hedgehogs will also eat cat and dog food. They sometimes visit gardens looking for food and some people leave pet food out for them to eat.



Helping Hedgehogs

The number of hedgehogs in the UK is in **decline** but there are things that people can do to help hedgehogs.

- Hedgehogs can be encouraged into gardens if an area is left wild to give them somewhere to shelter and build a nest.
- Some people build hedgehog houses in their garden.
- Some people leave food and water out for hedgehogs.



Glossary

decline: To become fewer.

omnivore: An animal that eats animals and plants.

Questions

1. Which word describes an animal that is active at night? Tick one.

- prickly
- omnivore
- mammal
- nocturnal

2. Number the sentences from 1-4 to show the order in which they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- Hedgehog bodies are almost completely covered in stiff spines.
- Hedgehogs curl up into a prickly ball when they feel threatened.
- 1 Hedgehogs live in different habitats including woodland and farmland.
- Hedgehogs have a very short tail.

3. Write **two** foods that hedgehogs eat.

- _____
- _____

4. Fill in the missing word.

A baby hedgehog is called a _____.

5. Look at the section called **Helping Hedgehogs**. Find and copy the word that means the number of hedgehogs in the UK is going down.

6. What would you like to find out about hedgehogs? Write a question.

