

Hedgehogs

There are 17 different types of hedgehog. Read on to find out more about these spiky animals.

Which Hedgehog Lives in the UK?

The West European hedgehog lives in the UK. They can grow to around 20cm - 25cm long and can weigh up to 1.2kg.

These hedgehogs enjoy living in hedgerows or at the edge of woodland areas. Their coat is made from around 6000 spines which help to protect them.



Hedgehogs sleep in a safe, quiet place during the cold winter months. They wake up in the spring and then will begin making nests out of things like dead leaves and moss. Hedgehogs will then give birth to between four and six babies and will look after them for eight weeks.

Did You Know...?

Hedgehog spines are made from a material called keratin. This is the same material that your fingernails are made from!



How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?

Unfortunately, lots of people think that the amount of hedgehogs now in the UK is less than it used to be. Luckily, there is a lot that can be done to help hedgehogs. This includes making hedgehog-friendly places where they can sleep and make nests.

Making a garden that is a great place for hedgehogs to explore is easier than you might think. All you need to do is leave a space in your garden with lots of dead leaves, sticks and logs. This will attract lots of insects that hedgehogs will enjoy eating.



Can I Leave Out Food for a Wild Hedgehog?

If you think that hedgehogs could be visiting your garden, you might want to put out some food for them.



Hedgehogs are awake at night so it's best to leave out food just as it's beginning to get dark. Special hedgehog food or tinned cat food is a perfect meal. Leave water in a shallow bowl and never give a hedgehog milk to drink.



This is because hedgehogs cannot digest milk and drinking it could make them very ill.

Did You Know...?

There are a few different names for baby hedgehogs. These include 'hoglets' and 'urchins'.

Questions

1. How many different types of hedgehog are there? Tick one.

- ☐ 15
- ☐ 16
- ☐ 17
- ☐ 19

2. Draw **three** lines to complete each sentence.

Hedgehogs live in...

insects.

Hedgehogs sleep...

hedgerows.

Hedgehogs enjoy eating...

during the cold
winter months.

3. What is a hoglet? Tick one.

- ☐ a small pig
- ☐ a special type of bracelet
- ☐ a hedgehog's favourite food
- ☐ a name for a baby hedgehog

4. What should you never give to a hedgehog? Tick one.

- ☐ milk
- ☐ tinned cat food
- ☐ water
- ☐ insects

5. What type of hedgehog lives in the UK?

6. Why is it best to leave out food for hedgehogs just as it's beginning to get dark?

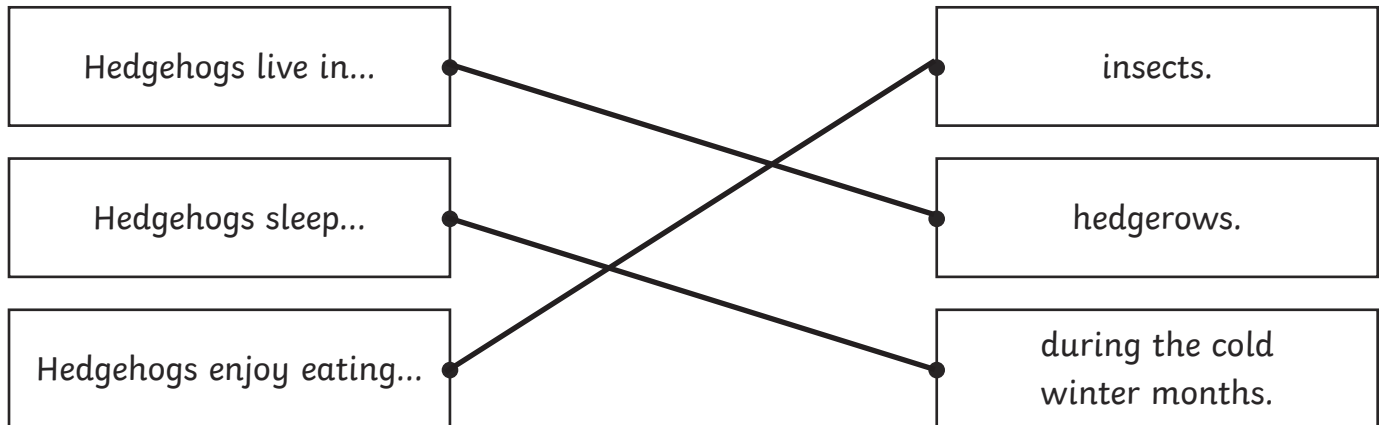
7. Would you like to see a hedgehog in the wild? Explain your answer.

Answers

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- ☐ 16
- ☒ **17**
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4. What should you never give to a hedgehog? Tick one.

- ☒ **milk**
- ☐ tinned cat food
- ☐ water
- ☐ insects

5. What type of hedgehog lives in the UK?

The West European hedgehog lives in the UK.

6. Why is it best to leave out food for hedgehogs just as it's beginning to get dark?

It is best to leave out food for hedgehogs just as it's beginning to get dark because hedgehogs are awake at night.

7. Would you like to see a hedgehog in the wild? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I would like to see a hedgehog in the wild because then I will know that there are hedgehogs nearby and I can try leaving some cat food out for them.

Hedgehogs

Which Hedgehog Lives in the UK?

There are 17 different types of hedgehog. The West European hedgehog is found across the UK. This spiky creature can grow to around 20cm - 25cm in length and can weigh up to 1.2kg.

These hedgehogs can be found living in hedgerows or at the edge of woodland areas. Their coat is made up of around 6000 spines which help to protect them from most predators.

Hedgehogs **hibernate** during the cold winter months. When they wake up in the spring, hedgehogs will start making nests out of things like dead leaves and moss. Female hedgehogs will then give birth to between four and six babies and will look after them for eight weeks.

Did You Know...?

Hedgehog spines are made from a material called keratin. This is the same material that your fingernails are made from!



How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?

Unfortunately, many people believe that the number of hedgehogs now in the UK is lower than it used to be. Luckily, there is a lot that can be done to help hedgehogs by making hedgehog-friendly places where they can hibernate and make nests.

Making a garden that is an exciting place for hedgehogs to explore is easier than you might think. Simply leave a wild area in your garden that has piles of dead leaves, sticks or logs. This is perfect for hedgehogs because it attracts lots of insects which they feed on. If an area is left alone, hedgehogs are more likely to feel safe and may begin visiting more often.

Glossary

Did You Know...?

There are several different names for baby hedgehogs. These include 'hoglets', 'hedgehoglets' and 'urchins'.

Can I Leave Out Food for a Wild Hedgehog?

If you think that hedgehogs could be visiting your garden, you might want to put out some food and water for them. Hedgehogs are active at night, so the best time to leave out food is just as it's beginning to get dark.

Special hedgehog food or tinned cat food is a perfect meal. Leave water in a shallow bowl and never give a hedgehog milk to drink. This is because hedgehogs cannot digest milk and drinking it could make them seriously ill.

The next time that you're walking near a hedgerow, take a moment to think about the spiky, little creature that could be snoozing close by!

hibernate: The act of plants or animals spending the winter in a dormant or deep sleep state.

Questions

1. What are hedgehog spines made from? Tick one.

- ☐ bones
- ☐ fingernails
- ☐ keratin
- ☐ sticks

2. What do hedgehogs do during the cold winter months? Tick one.

- ☐ make nests
- ☐ give birth
- ☐ go into a deep sleep
- ☐ eat insects

3. Draw **four** lines and match each subheading to a description of its contents.

Which Hedgehog
Lives in the UK?

Information about how to make
a wild area in your garden.

How Can I Make a
Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?

Information about the West
European hedgehog.

Can I Leave Out Food for
a Wild Hedgehog?

A section with quick,
exciting facts.

Did You Know...?

Information about what to
feed a wild hedgehog.

4. When are you most likely to see a hedgehog? Tick one.

- ☐ early in the morning
- ☐ during the winter
- ☐ in the afternoon
- ☐ at nighttime

5. Look at the section called **Which Hedgehog Lives in the UK?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as an animal that preys on hedgehogs.

6. What weight can the West European hedgehog reach?

7. Do you think that every garden should have a space for hedgehogs? Explain your answer.

8. Look at the section called **How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?**

Explain how you can tell that the author likes hedgehogs.

Answers

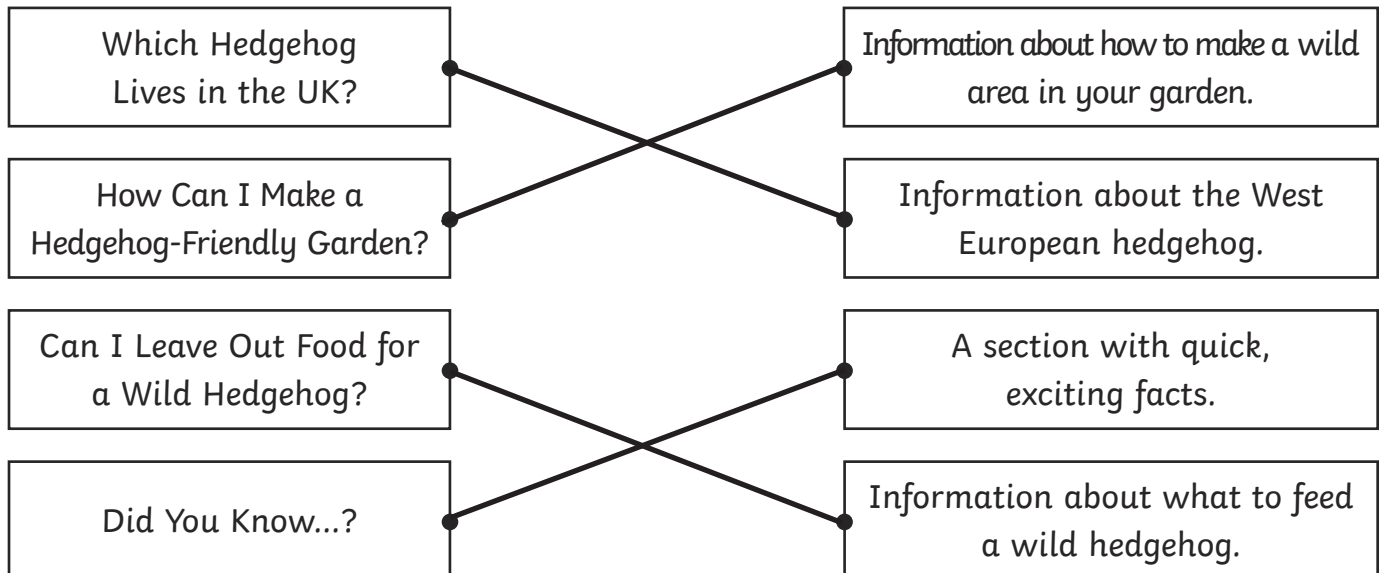
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- ☐ bones
- ☐ fingernails
- ☒ **keratin**
- ☐ sticks

2. What do hedgehogs do during the cold winter months? Tick one.

- ☐ make nests
- ☐ give birth
- ☒ **go into a deep sleep**
- ☐ eat insects

3. Draw **four** lines and match each subheading to a description of its contents.



4. When are you most likely to see a hedgehog? Tick one.

- ☐ early in the morning
- ☐ during the winter
- ☐ in the afternoon
- ☒ **at nighttime**

5. Look at the section called **Which Hedgehog Lives in the UK?**

Find and copy one word which means the same as an animal that preys on hedgehogs.

predator

6. What weight can the West European hedgehog reach?

The West European hedgehog can weigh up to 1.2kg.

7. Do you think that every garden should have a space for hedgehogs? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: No, I do not think that every garden should have a space for hedgehogs because then all of the insects will get eaten and there will be no more insects left. I think that some gardens should be left for insects and others for hedgehogs.

8. Look at the section called **How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?**

Explain how you can tell that the author likes hedgehogs.

Pupils' own responses, such as: In this section, the author uses the word 'unfortunately' when talking about there being fewer hedgehogs. Then, they use the word 'luckily' when saying that there is something that people can do to help. This shows that they like hedgehogs.



Hedgehogs

Across the world, there are 17 different species of hedgehog. With spiky coats and long noses, they are easy to identify. Read on to find out more about these interesting mammals.

Which Hedgehog is Native to the UK?

The West European hedgehog can be found across the UK and even on some British islands. This spiky creature can grow to around 20cm - 25cm in length and can weigh up to 1.2kg.

These hedgehogs are **nocturnal** and can be found living in hedgerows, parks or at the edge of woodland areas. Their distinctive coat is made up of around 6000 hollow spines which help to protect them from most predators.

Throughout the winter months, hedgehogs **hibernate** in a safe, quiet place where they won't be disturbed. Sometimes, this might be in an unlit bonfire. Because of this, it's important to always thoroughly check bonfires for sleeping hedgehogs before lighting them.



When they wake up in the spring, hedgehogs will begin to make a nest using dead leaves, moss and other easily found items. Female hedgehogs will give birth to between four and six babies and they will look after them for a total of eight weeks. There are several different names given to baby hedgehogs, including 'hoglets', 'hedgehoglets' and 'urchins'.

How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?

Unfortunately, many people believe that the number of hedgehogs in the UK is falling. This is thought to be for a number of reasons, including a loss of suitable places for hedgehogs to live. Luckily, there is a lot that can be done to help to make hedgehog-friendly places where they can hibernate and make nests.

Making a garden that is an exciting place for hedgehogs to explore is as easy as leaving a space to grow.



Leaving an area in a garden that has piles of dead leaves or logs is perfect for hedgehogs because it attracts lots of insects. Hedgehogs are insectivores, which means that they eat worms, beetles, snails and other creepy crawlies. If an area is left alone, hedgehogs are more likely to feel safe and may begin visiting more often.

Can I Leave Out Food for a Wild Hedgehog?

If you think that hedgehogs could be visiting your garden, you might wish to put some food and water outside for them. Hedgehogs are nocturnal, so it's best to leave out food just as it's beginning to get dark.



Tinned, meat-based cat food or special hedgehog food is a perfect meal. Leave water in a shallow bowl and never give a hedgehog milk to drink. This is because milk contains a type of sugar that hedgehogs cannot digest. Drinking milk could make a hedgehog seriously ill.



The next time that you're walking near a hedgerow or the edge of a woodland, take a moment to think about the spiky little creature that could be snoozing close by!

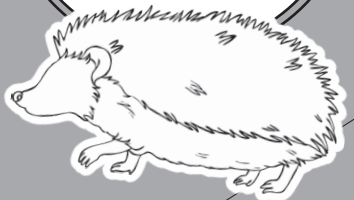
Glossary

hibernate:

The act of plants or animals spending the winter in a dormant or deep sleep state.

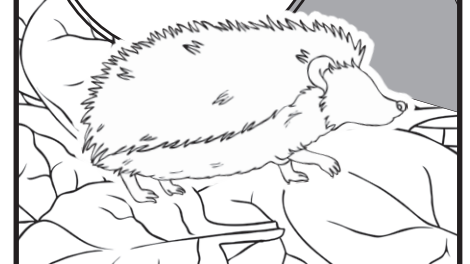
native:

A plant or animal that originally lived or grew in a particular place.



nocturnal:

Active at night.



Questions

1. When do hedgehogs hibernate? Tick one.

- ☐ throughout the winter months
- ☐ throughout the summer months
- ☐ throughout the spring months
- ☐ throughout the autumn months

2. Draw **four** lines to complete each sentence.

Hedgehogs are...

lighting them.

Check bonfires for
hedgehogs before...

falling.

Many believe that the
number of hedgehogs is...

nocturnal.

Using dead leaves,
hedgehogs will...

make a nest.

3. Look at the section titled **Which Hedgehog is Native to the UK?**
Find and copy one word which means the same as **easy to spot**.

4. Fill in the missing words.

If an area is left _____, hedgehogs are more likely to feel _____ and
may begin visiting more often.

5. When are hedgehogs most active?

6. Using 20 words or fewer, summarise what you have learnt about the West European hedgehog.

7. Who do you think was the intended audience for this text? Explain your answer.

8. Look at the section titled **How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?**

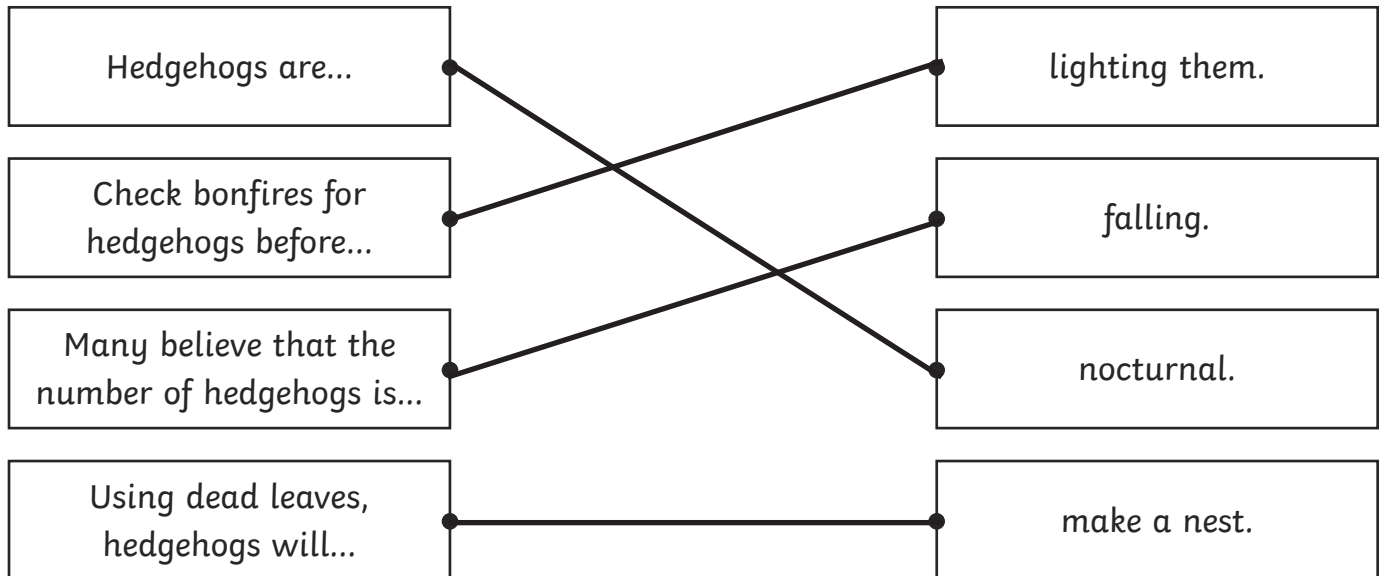
Compare the start of this section with the end of this section. How are they different?

Questions

1. When do hedgehogs hibernate? Tick one.

- ☒ **throughout the winter months**
☐ throughout the summer months
☐ throughout the spring months
☐ throughout the autumn months

2. Draw **four** lines to complete each sentence.



3. Look at the section titled **Which Hedgehog is Native to the UK?**
 Find and copy one word which means the same as **easy to spot**.

distinctive

4. Fill in the missing words.

If an area is left **alone**, hedgehogs are more likely to feel **safe** and may begin visiting more often.

5. When are hedgehogs most active?

Hedgehogs are nocturnal so they are most active at night.

6. Using 20 words or fewer, summarise what you have learnt about the West European hedgehog.

Pupils' own responses, such as: This hedgehog can be found across the UK and can grow up to 25cm long. They live in hedgerows.

7. Who do you think was the intended audience for this text? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the intended audience for this text is people who like animals because they will enjoy seeing the pictures and learning about how they can help hedgehogs.

8. Look at the section titled **How Can I Make a Hedgehog-Friendly Garden?**

Compare the start of this section with the end of this section. How are they different?

Pupils' own responses, such as: At the start of the section, the author talks about how hedgehog numbers are falling in the UK. They use the word 'unfortunately' to show that this is a bad thing. By the end of the section, they are talking about what can be done to help hedgehogs and it is a lot more positive.