

Card 1

Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are small mammals that live in the U.K. They like to live in gardens and woods. They live in many other countries but you will not find them in Australia and North and South America. They are covered in sharp quills which protect them from predators. When they feel threatened they roll themselves up into a small ball. Their quills are also known as spikes. They protect them from predators such as owls, foxes, ferrets and even wolves.



Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals which means that they are active at night when it is dark. During the day they sleep, hiding under rocks, hedges and bushes.

Card 1 Questions

1. Where do hedgehogs like to live?

2. Name one part of the world where you won't find hedgehogs?

3. Why do hedgehogs have sharp spines?

4. What do hedgehogs do when they feel threatened?

5. What is another word for a hedgehog's spines?

6. Are you more likely to see a hedgehog at 10 o'clock in the morning or 10 o'clock at night? Why?

Card 2

Mammals

A hedgehog is a mammal. A mammal is a 'vertebrate' which means that it has a backbone (or spine). Creatures which don't have a backbone like shellfish and insects are called 'invertebrates'.

When mammals have babies, they feed on their mothers' milk. Mammals also produce 'live' young, unlike other animals such as birds, fish and insects that lay eggs. Mammals vary enormously in size. The biggest mammal is the Blue Whale which can grow up to 30 metres long. The smallest mammals are the Etruscan shrew, which looks a bit like a tiny mouse, and the bumblebee bat, which gets its nick name because its size - less than 3cm long, which is about the size of a large bumble bee.

Some mammals, like humans, gorillas and monkeys, are very intelligent.

Many people keep smaller mammals as pets. Do you share your home with any mammals?

Card 2 Questions

1. If an animal is a vertebrate, what does it have?

2. Name two types of invertebrate.

3. What do baby mammals feed on?

4. What is the largest mammal?

5. How long is a bumblebee bat?

6. Can you think of a mammal that could be a pet?

Card 3

A Hedgehog's Diet

Hedgehogs are mainly carnivorous. This means that they mostly eat meat. Hedgehogs eat other small creatures which share their habitat (the place where they live) such as earwigs, caterpillars, worms, beetles and millipedes. Some of these creatures like to eat plants and flowers which are pests to gardeners, so gardeners might think of hedgehogs as useful friends.

If you find a hedgehog in your garden, you can feed it dog or cat food or even unsalted nuts. It is not a good idea to give hedgehogs milk as their stomachs don't like it, water is much better for them.

If you do decide to feed a hedgehog, it is a good idea to put their food in a place where other animals can't get to it. Inside an old pipe or under a rock are good places so that bigger animals, like rats and cats, can't get the food. You could even design and build a special house that only small animals can get into.

Card 3 Questions

1. What do carnivorous animals mainly eat?

2. Which word describes where an animal lives?

3. Name two insects hedgehogs like to eat?

4. Why might a gardener be pleased to find a hedgehog in their garden?

5. Which non-meat food could you feed to hedgehogs?

6. Why shouldn't you give hedgehogs milk?

Card 4

Hibernation

Hedgehogs are one of the few animals that like to hibernate. This means that when winter comes and there isn't as much food around and the weather is wet and cold, hedgehogs will find themselves somewhere cosy and safe to 'sleep' for a few months.

They don't actually sleep, they just stay very still and quiet. They don't go out to feed, they just live on the fat they have grown over the summer months.

Hedgehogs will start to hibernate in October or November, but if the weather is mild, they might not hibernate until December. They will come out of hibernation in March or April.

Because hedgehogs need lots of fat on their bodies to see them through winter, it is important that they eat lots and lots of food in the weeks leading up to their hibernation.



Card 4 Questions

1. At what time of the year will hedgehogs start to hibernate?

2. Name a month when hedgehogs don't hibernate?

3. Give two reasons why hedgehogs hibernate in winter?

4. What kind of weather might delay their hibernation?

5. When do hedgehogs come out of hibernation?

6. What will hedgehogs be busy doing in the weeks before they hibernate?

Card 5

Helping Grandma

Ben didn't much like helping his Grandma in the garden, he thought it was boring. But she was planning a Bonfire Night Party in a few days and needed help to tidy up the garden so it would be ready for the party.

"Can you fetch the wheelbarrow please?" asked Grandma. Ben sighed and set off to the shed to fetch it. Just as he got there, he noticed a rustling in the dead leaves and saw a hedgehog. "Grandma, quick! Look what I've found!" called Ben.

"Well fancy that, you don't see many hedgehogs these days. Isn't he cute?" said Grandma.

"Shall we give him something to eat?" asked Ben. "That's a great idea. He'll be hibernating soon and will need to build up his fat to see him through his winter hibernation." replied Grandma. "You stay here and keep an eye on him while I pop inside and see what I can find."

Ben was fascinated as he watched his new friend scurrying amongst the leaves.

A few minutes later Grandma returned with a tin of cat food and a saucer of water. She handed the food to Ben and said, "Find somewhere safe to put it where other animals can't get to it."

Ben didn't think gardening was quite so boring now.

Card 5 Questions

1. In which month do you think this story is set? How do you know this?

2. What did Grandma ask Ben to fetch?

3. Where was the hedgehog?

4. Why does the hedgehog need to eat lots of food?

5. What kind of pet do you think Grandma has? How do you know this?

6. What did Grandma fetch for the hedgehog to drink?

Card 6

The Hog Family

"Come on, we've got to be up early tonight, it's getting dark so hurry up and get out of your beds" said Mrs Hog to her two children - Edge and Wedge.

"Oh Mum, do we have to? It's only just getting dark." said Edge. Her brother, Wedge, gave a big yawn, a big stretch and started to clean his bristles.

"Yes, winter's coming and we need to stock up on food to make us nice and fat before that big sleep I was telling you about."

"OK Mum" said Edge and Wedge together. They set off to search behind the garden shed. Wedge was the first to spot some food. "Quick Mum! I've found a big fat slug!"

"There's no need to rush." said Mum, "He's not going to run away is he?".

For the next few hours, the three of them hunted all round the garden. Millipedes, beetles, grubs and slugs were soon found and gobbled up. It was a good night for hunting and soon they were so full they could hardly move.

Card 6 Questions

1. What are the names of Mrs Hog's children?

2. What is the name of the girl hedgehog?

3. Why do you think they get up at night time?

4. Why do they need to stock up on food?

5. Where did they search first?

6. Why is the slug unlikely to run away?

Card 7

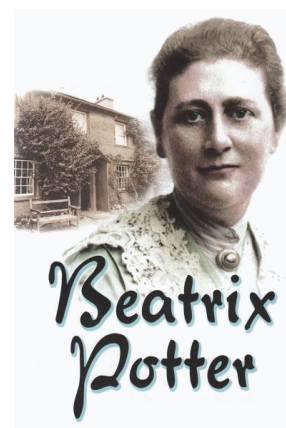
Beatrix Potter

The most famous book written about hedgehogs was written by Beatrix Potter in 1905. It was called 'Mrs Tiggy-Winkle' and it told the story of a hedgehog whose job it was to wash the clothes of the animals who lived in the wood near to her. Beatrix Potter also illustrated the book.

Beatrix Potter grew up in London. Her family was wealthy and employed a woman to do all their laundry. She was a Scottish woman called Kitty MacDonald. Unusually, Beatrix had a pet hedgehog and she based the character of Mrs Tiggy-Winkle on Kitty Macdonald and her pet hedgehog.

In the story, Mrs Tiggy-Winkle is visited by a little girl called Lucie who helps the hedgehog deliver clean clothes to the animals.

Beatrix Potter wrote many stories for children and these are still popular over a hundred years later.



Card 7 Questions

1. Who wrote Mrs Tiggy-Winkle?

2. Who drew the pictures for the book?

3. In what year was the book written?

4. Where did Beatrix Potter grow up?

5. Where was Kitty MacDonald from?

6. What was Mrs Tiggy-Winkle's job?

Card 8

Under Threat

The number of hedgehogs in Britain has fallen dramatically in recent years. There are several reasons for this. Some people think it's because we don't have as many hedges as we used to and so hedgehogs have fewer places to live. Some people think it's because it is harder for hedgehogs to travel between gardens because there are many more fences and walls separating gardens, making it difficult for them to hunt over a bigger area. There has also been a growth in the number of badgers and foxes who are predators of the hedgehog.

There are things we can do to help our little spikey friends. You could leave a patch of your garden wild to allow a habitat which would be full of food that hedgehogs like such as beetles and millipedes.

In Autumn, when hedgehogs like to hibernate, it is a really good idea to check any bonfires you might have built for November 5th to see if there are any hedgehogs sleeping there.

Card 8 Questions

1. What has happened to the number of hedgehogs in Britain recently?

2. Which hedgehog habitats are there less of nowadays?

3. Which predators have increased in numbers recently?

4. Why do hedgehogs find it difficult to travel between gardens?

5. Why is it a good idea to leave a patch of your garden wild?

6. In which season is it especially important to check bonfires?

Hedgehog Poem

He's the gardener's favourite fellow,
Eyes so bright, green and yellow.
Don't be scared of those sharp spines,
Got far less threat than a porcupine's.
Each autumn, the gardener's best pet.
His appetite for slugs you should not forget.
Over the winter, take care of his home,
When threatened and he'll roll into a dome.

Card 9 Questions

1. Which words in the poem tell you that gardeners like hedgehogs?

2. According to the poem, what colours are the hedgehog's eyes?

3. Which animal's spines are more dangerous than a hedgehog's?

4. Why is the hedgehog the gardener's friend in autumn?

5. In which season does the poem say you should take care of the hedgehog's home?

6. According to the poem, into what shape will a hedgehog turn when threatened?

Card 10

Tiggywinkles Animal Hospital

There is a charity called Tiggywinkles which runs a hospital for injured and ill, small animals. Just like a hospital for people, they are open all the time. Each year they help over ten thousand animals.

In 1978, a man called Les Stocker realised that there was a need for an animal hospital for these small animals so he set up his own animal hospital near Aylesbury in Buckinghamshire. The hospital proved to be very popular but, unfortunately, Les began to run out of money to fund his hospital. He then had the idea of forming a charity to help pay for the care of the animals and in 1983, Tiggywinkles was formed.

The Tiggywinkles hospital now has an operating theatre and a Visitors' Centre where groups of people can see the work Tiggywinkles does .

The hospital cares for all kinds of British wildlife from hedgehogs, foxes, deer and badgers to ducklings, gulls and even sparrows!

Sadly, Les Stocker M.B.E died last year but his marvellous work continues today.

Card 10 Questions

1. What is the name of the hospital which cares for animals?

2. How many animals do they help each year?

3. How many years ago was Tiggywinkles set up?

4. Who set up Tiggywinkles?

5. Why was a charity set up in 1983?

6. Name three types of animal that Tiggywinkles cares for?

Card 1 Answers

1. Where do hedgehogs like to live?

Gardens and woods

2. Name one part of the world where you won't find hedgehogs?

Australia, South America
and North America

3. Why do hedgehogs have sharp spines?

To protect them from predators.

4. What do hedgehogs do when they feel threatened?

Roll themselves up into a small ball.

5. What is another word for a hedgehog's quills?

Spikes

6. Are you more likely to see a hedgehog at 10 o'clock in the morning or 10 o'clock at night? Why?

10 o'clock at night because

because they are nocturnal.

Card 2 Answers

1. If an animal is a vertebrate, what does it have?

It has a backbone (or spine).

2. Name two types of invertebrate.

Shellfish and insects.

3. What do baby mammals feed on?

Their mothers' milk.

4. What is the largest mammal?

The Blue Whale

5. How long is a bumblebee bat?

Less than 3cm long or the size of
A large bumble bee.

6. Can you think of a mammal that could be a pet?

Teacher judgement

Card 3 Answers

1. What do carnivorous animals mainly eat?

Meat

2. Which word describes where an animal lives?

Habitat

3. Name two insects hedgehogs like to eat?

Any 2 of these: earwigs, worms, caterpillars, beetles, millipedes.

4. Why might a gardener be pleased to find a hedgehog in their garden?

They eat garden pests.

5. Which non-meat food could you feed to hedgehogs?

Unsalted peanuts

6. Why shouldn't you give hedgehogs milk?

Their stomachs don't like it.

Card 4 Answers

1. At what time of the year will hedgehogs start to hibernate?

Autumn

2. Name a month when hedgehogs don't hibernate?

May to September

3. Give two reasons why hedgehogs hibernate in winter?

Because there is not much food and it is wet and cold.

4. What kind of weather might delay their hibernation?

Mild

5. When do hedgehogs come out of hibernation?

March or April

6. What will hedgehogs be busy doing in the weeks before they hibernate?

Eating lots of food.

Card 5 Answers

1. In which month do you think this story is set? How do you know this?

November because they are
getting ready for bonfire night.

2. What did Grandma ask Ben to fetch?

A wheelbarrow

3. Where was the hedgehog?

In the dead leaves

4. Why does the hedgehog need to eat lots of food?

To build up his fat

5. What kind of pet do you think Grandma has? How do you know this?

A cat because she gives the
hedgehog cat food.

6. What did Grandma fetch for the hedgehog to drink?

Water

Card 6 Answers

1. What are the names of Mrs Hog's children?

Edge and Wedge

2. What is the name of the girl hedgehog?

Edge

3. Why do you think they get up at night time?

Because hedgehogs are nocturnal.

4. Why do they need to stock up on food?

To build up fat ready for winter.

5. Where did they search first?

Behind the garden shed

6. Why is the slug unlikely to run away?

Because slugs don't have legs
and they can't move quickly.

Card 7 Answers

1. Who wrote Mrs Tiggy-Winkle?

Beatrix Potter

2. Who drew the pictures for the book?

Beatrix Potter

3. In what year was the book written?

1904

4. Where did Beatrix Potter grow up?

London

5. Where was Kitty MacDonald from?

Scotland

6. What was Mrs Tiggy-Winkle's job?

Washing clothes

Card 8 Answers

1. What has happened to the number of hedgehogs in Britain recently?

It has fallen

2. Which hedgehog habitats are there less of nowadays?

Hedges

3. Which predators have increased in numbers recently?

Badgers and foxes

4. Why do hedgehogs find it difficult to travel between gardens?

Because of the fences and walls between the gardens.

5. Why is it a good idea to leave a patch of your garden wild?

To allow a habitat which will be

Full of the kinds of foods that hedgehogs like.

6. In which season is it especially important to check bonfires?

Autumn

Card 9 Answers

Which words in the poem tell you that gardeners like hedgehogs?

Favourite fellow or gardener's pet

2. According to the poem, what colours are the hedgehog's eyes?

Green and yellow

3. Which animal's spines are more dangerous than a hedgehog's?

A porcupine's

4. Why is the hedgehog the gardener's friend in autumn?

They eat slugs

5. In which season does the poem say you should take care of the hedgehog's home?

Winter

6. According to the poem, into what shape will a hedgehog turn when threatened?

A dome

Card 10 Answers

1. What is the name of the hospital which cares for animals?

Tiggywinkles

2. How many animals do they help each year?

Over ten thousand animals

3. How many years ago was the Tiggywinkles charity set up?

34 years

4. Who set up Tiggywinkles?

Les Stocker

5. Why was a charity set up in 1983?

To help pay for the care of animals.

6. Name three types of animal that Tiggywinkles cares for?

Any three of: hedgehogs, foxes, deer, badgers, ducklings, gulls, sparrows.