

Hedgehogs



Hedgehogs are a largely nocturnal species, as they are unlikely to come out during the day. In the daytime, they spend a considerable amount of time sleeping in nests under thick bushes or shrubs.



Fascinating Facts

The hedgehog got its name because it roots through hedges searching for food (hedge), while grunting like a pig (hog); this is why it's called a hedgehog!

They have about 5,000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year before it drops out and a replacement grows.

Where Do They Live?

Hedgehogs can be found in almost all areas of the UK, except some of the Scottish islands. They tend to be scarce in wetland areas, pine forests and the highlands, where food and nesting sites are harder to find. Hedgehogs prefer moist habitats and live either on the ground or under the ground. They make habitats in farmlands, gardens, or even in parks. They live in nests under hedges or where ground-dwelling insects and other invertebrates are in large quantity.

Favourite Foods

The hedgehog has a reputation as being the 'gardener's friend' as it loves eating so many 'pests'. Some of their favourite foods are small creatures such as insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

Staying Safe

Hedgehogs have sharp spines on their back, and when they are scared they curl up into a ball. Hedgehogs often roll up into a tight ball to protect themselves. As they feel threatened, they make their muscles active, which causes their spines to straighten. It is the only mammal native to Britain that has spines.

Questions about...

Hedgehogs



Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What type of animals are hedgehogs?

2. What do they do during the day?

3. Where do hedgehogs live?

4. Why won't you find many hedgehogs in wetland areas, pine forests or the highlands of Scotland?

5. Why do some people call hedgehogs 'the gardener's friend'?

6. How do hedgehogs stay safe?

7. Write an interesting fact about hedgehogs below.

Hedgehogs – Answers

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What type of animals are hedgehogs?

Hedgehogs are largely a nocturnal species.

2. What do they do during the day?

In the daytime, they spend a considerable amount of time sleeping in nests under thick bushes and shrubs.

3. Where do hedgehogs live?

Hedgehogs live in farmlands, gardens and parks.

4. Why won't you find many hedgehogs in wetland areas, pine forests or the highlands of Scotland?

You won't find many hedgehogs in wetland areas because food and nesting sites are harder for the hedgehogs to find here.

5. Why do some people call hedgehogs 'the gardener's friend'?

Some people call hedgehogs 'the gardener's friend' because they love eating pests that can be found in gardens, such as: insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

6. How do hedgehogs stay safe?

Hedgehogs stay safe by curling into a tight ball and they use their sharp spikes to protect themselves.

7. Write an interesting fact about hedgehogs below.

Accept any of the following answers:

They are the only mammal native to Britain that has spines.

The hedgehog got its name because it roots through hedges searching for food (hedge), while grunting like a pig (hog); this is why it's called a hedgehog.

They have about 5,000 spines. Each spine lasts about a year before it drops out and a replacement grows.