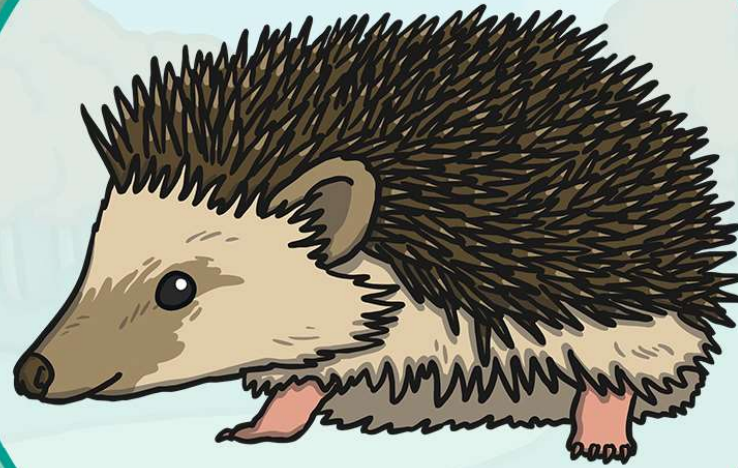


# Hedgehog Awareness Week

30<sup>th</sup> April – 6<sup>th</sup> May 2023



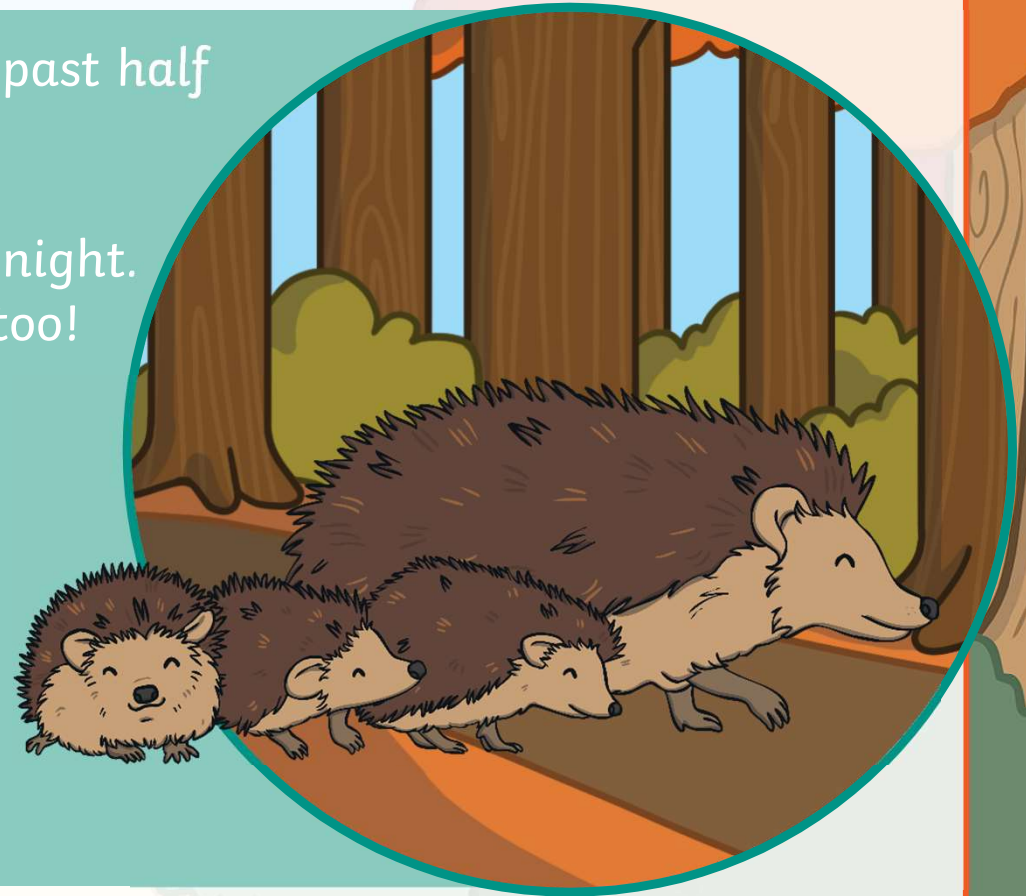
# What Are Hedgehogs?

- Hedgehogs are nocturnal mammals that are covered in about 6000 spines.
- If hedgehogs feel frightened, they will roll into a ball.
- They are called hedgehogs because they build nests under hedges and make a snorting sound.
- Hedgehogs hibernate during the winter.



# What Are Hedgehogs?

- Hedgehogs have been around for the past half a million (500,000) years!
- They can travel around 2 miles each night. They can run faster than you think, too!
- Baby hedgehogs are called 'hoglets'.
- Hedgehogs eat beetles, earthworms, caterpillars, snails and slugs so they are very helpful to gardeners!
- They can swim well.

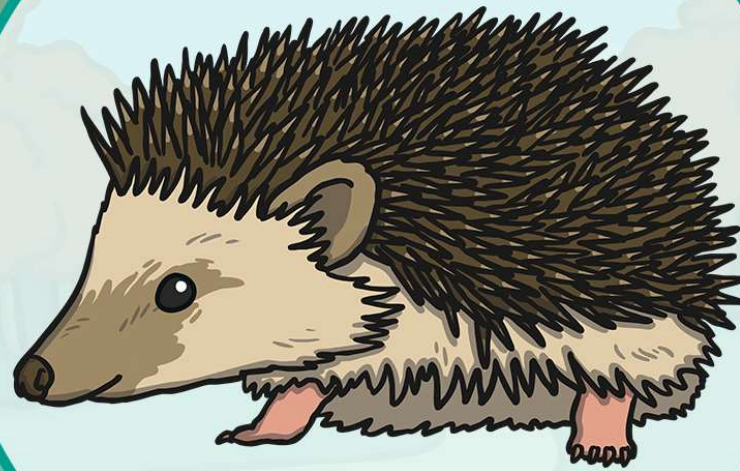


# Where Can I See Hedgehogs?

## Have you ever seen a hedgehog?

- Hedgehogs live in towns and villages as well as the countryside.
- They like to move through parks, playing fields and gardens as they hunt for food.
- Hedgehogs may sleep, hibernate or make a nest in gardens! They are well camouflaged in piles of leaves or under hedges.





<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt5D6Hb6x10>

# Why Do Hedgehogs Need Our Help?

- Hedgehog numbers have fallen by 46% (nearly a half) over the past 13 years.
- Hedgehogs in the UK are at risk of extinction in the next twenty years, if nothing is done to help them.



What do you think **extinction** means?

# Why Do Hedgehogs Need Our Help?

- Many people are changing their gardens by putting fences in instead of hedges and making their gardens neat and tidy. Hedgehogs need to be able to travel around to find food in piles of leaves and long grass – if they can't do that, they can starve!
- Hedgehogs can also get hurt when crossing roads at night-time.
- If they eat a slug that has been poisoned with slug pellets, they can get very poorly or even die.



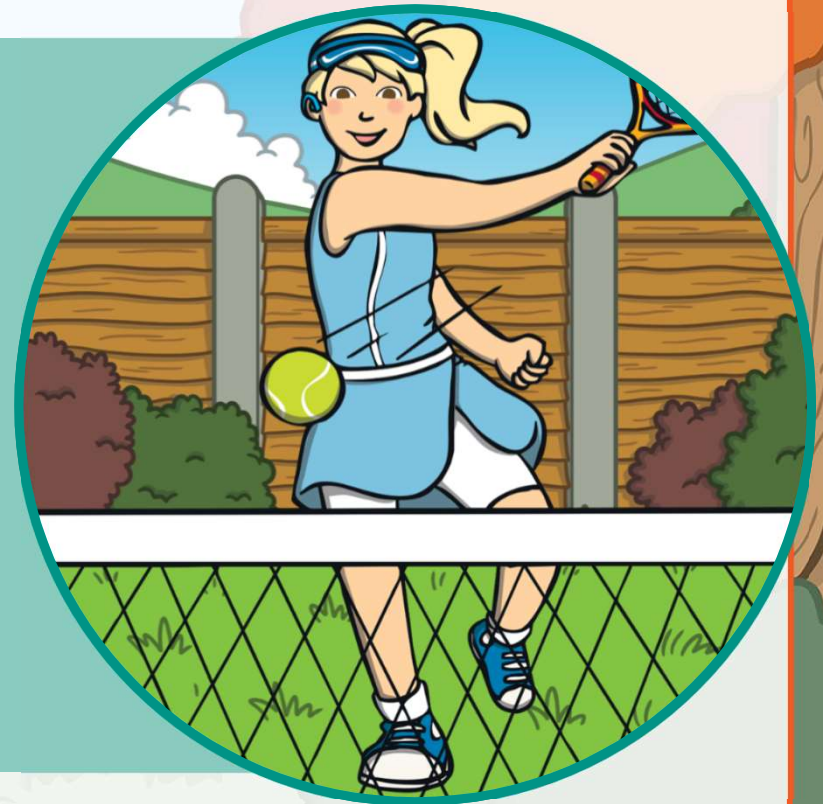
# Hazards That Can Be Removed or Improved

- Poisons and pesticides added to plants will harm hedgehogs and destroy their food chain.
- Uncovered drains – hedgehogs can fall into an uncovered drain and become stuck.
- Litter is a problem for all wildlife and although this is hopefully not an issue in your own garden, it very likely is in the wider environment.



# Hazards That Can Be Removed or Improved

- Netting, such as sports nets, can become entangled in hedgehog spines: make sure netting is put away and garden netting is at a height that hedgehogs can safely pass under.
- Always carefully check for hedgehogs before mowing, strimming or lighting a bonfire pile because they might have made a nest in the pile.



# How Can We Help Hedgehogs?

## In a garden:

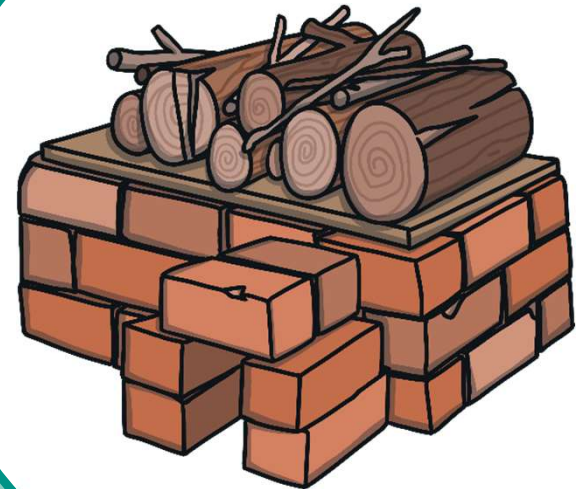
- Long grass and log piles;
- Ramps in deep ponds;
- No slug pellets;
- Connect gardens with small holes in fences;
- Put cat food and water out.



# How Can We Help Hedgehogs?

## At School:

- Check before mowing or strimming;
- Check the bonfire for sleeping hedgehogs;
- Buy or make a Hedgehog Home;
- Set up a trail camera;
- Become a Hedgehog Friendly School.



# How Can We Get Involved?

Talk to your family and friends about hedgehogs.

Make a log pile or wild area.

Tell people what to do if they see a hedgehog out in the day.



## Did You Know...?

If you see a hedgehog during the day, it might need urgent help. With gloves on, gently put the hedgehog in a high-sided box and take it to your nearest vet or animal rescue centre.

# Quiz

What is a baby hedgehog called?

**A** kitten

**B** pup

**C** hoglet

**Well Done.  
That's Correct!**



# Quiz

How many spines does a hedgehog have?

**A** about six hundred

**B** about six thousand

**C** about sixty

**Well Done.  
That's Correct!**



# Quiz

Can hedgehogs swim?

**A**

No.

**B**

Yes, but they need help getting out of deep water.

**Well Done.  
That's Correct!**



# Quiz

What are some reasons for helping hedgehogs?

**A**

To help stop them from becoming extinct in the UK

**B**

To help control the numbers of slugs and bugs in the garden

**C**

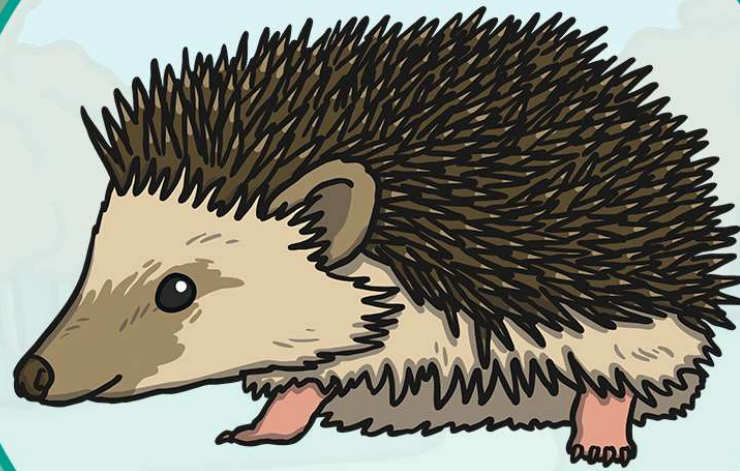
Because helping nature feels good

**D**

All of the above reasons!

**Well Done.  
That's Correct!**





Now for your own challenge... draw a house team hedgehog!!