

Activity Plan

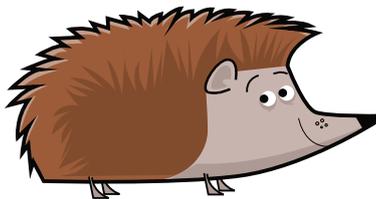
Hedgehog friends

ACTIVITY LOCATION:

- A safe outdoor site, such as school grounds, playing field, small park or garden

YOU WILL NEED:

- **Hedgehog friends** worksheet
- Pens or pencils
- Information leaflets about hedgehogs or access to the Internet
- Pictures of hedgehogs
- **The 5 Welfare Needs** ([click here](#) to download a version for the wall, or [here](#) for individual cards to hand out)



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PREPARATION

Collect leaflets about hedgehogs, or download and print information from rspca.org.uk, hedgehogstreet.org, mammal.org.uk/hedgehog, britishhedgehogs.org.uk, or stiggyswinkles.org.uk.

Choose a place to survey for its hedgehog friendliness: for example, school, scout hut, youth centre or other grounds, a garden or small park.

Introduction

10 MINUTES

Provide pictures of hedgehogs for the children to look at. Ask them which other animal they think a hedgehog is most like. In what ways is a hedgehog like this animal? They could think about how many legs it has, its skin beneath the spines and how it moves around. Tell them it is a mammal and remind them what this means: all mammals are fed on milk produced by the mother and nearly all are born live – just a few unusual mammals lay eggs. Land mammals have hair on their bodies, even if it is just a small amount.

Activity

35 MINUTES (plus travel)

Ask what hedgehogs (and other animals) need in order to stay alive, apart from air: they need food and water, shelter, protection from dangers such as other animals that might attack them, and dangers caused by humans, such as traffic or pollution.

Provide information from which the children can answer the following questions about hedgehogs (this needn't take long if different groups answer each question):

- What do hedgehogs eat?
- What do they do in the cold winter weather?
- Where and when do they give birth to babies?
- How do they look after them?
- What dangers do they face?

**HEDGEHOGS ARE
WILD ANIMALS,
AND SHOULD NOT BE
KEPT AS PETS!**

Hedgehog friends

(continued)

Invite feedback from the groups. Tell them that the main problems for hedgehogs in the wild are caused by humans, especially in gardens or public open spaces, such as parks; and that they are going to carry out a survey on a place where there might be hedgehogs, to find out how hedgehog-friendly it is and what could be done to improve it.

Walk around the chosen site with the children and ask them to look for anything that is hedgehog-friendly and anything that is not. They should record their findings on the **Hedgehog friends** worksheet. They could also add any other information that is not covered on the sheet.

Discussion

15 MINUTES

Ask the group whether they think the site is hedgehog-friendly and what could be done to improve this. Any change would require input from the owners/managers of the site. A later activity could be for the children to plan and draft, then write letters to them with the results of the survey, what they would like to do or have done, and why.

Point out that hedgehogs are wild animals and should not be captured to keep as pets.

CURRICULUM LINKS

- Science (KS2)
- Citizenship (KS2)
- English (KS2)

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