



Why Hedgehogs Need Help

Useful link

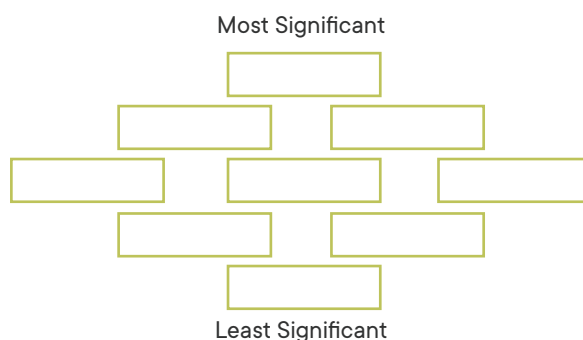
Visit The Big Hedgehog Map website to discover how many hedgehogs have been seen in your area
www.tiramor.cymru/hibernation
 (Resource 1)

Equipment required

- Print out the 'Hedgehog Threats' and 'Possible Solutions' worksheets, one per pair
- Scissors
- Pencils or pens
- Internet enabled devices and internet access for research

To complete the activity

1. Give each pair of learners a set of statement cards to rank. Ask them to cut and rank these statements in a diamond formation. Learners may wish to use the internet to research and gather more information about each threat to make informed decisions. The most significant threats should be placed at the top, and the least significant at the bottom.



2. Encourage learners to discuss their choices and explain why they ranked them as they did. e.g. "Why do you think this threat is more significant?"

3. Invite learners to share their ideas with the rest of the class. Systemic issues (like habitat loss and road traffic) have the most profound and widespread impact, while more localised or preventable dangers (like litter or bonfires) are less critical overall.

4. The activity can be extended by encouraging learners to consider and research possible solutions to protect hedgehogs and their habitats. Ask learners to come up with creative ideas to address a significant threat (e.g., creating hedgehog highways through fences and hedges; building hedgehog homes, like nesting boxes or log piles; or, implementing slower speed limits in areas with known hedgehog populations).

5. Challenge learners to write a hedgehog-friendly post for the school social media, educating others about how to protect hedgehogs.

Social media post guidelines

1. Select the social media platform to be used.
2. Create an engaging message, keeping the content concise (maximum 150 words).
3. Include a clear call to action, e.g., creating hedgehog-friendly gardens.
4. Choose strong visuals, ensuring necessary permissions to use any images.
5. Use relevant hashtags to increase visibility (e.g., #hedgehog, #wildlife, #conservation).
6. Consider providing hyperlinks to reliable additional information in your post.

Hedgehog Threats



Game rules

Cut out the statements and arrange in a diamond shape, placing the most significant threats to hedgehogs at the top and the least significant at the bottom.

Discuss your choices with your partner and be ready to explain and justify your rankings to the rest of the class.

Habitat loss

The loss of natural habitats like hedgerows and woodlands reduces the space for hedgehogs to live and forage.

Pesticides

The widespread use of pesticides harms hedgehogs by killing the insects they rely on for food.

Road traffic

Hedgehogs often fall victim to road accidents, especially when crossing roads at night. An estimated 200,000 are killed annually on roads.

Garden and other dangers

Man-made dangers like ponds, netting, and garden tools such as strimmers and lawn mowers can harm. Football goal nets left unfurled are also a real danger.

Climate change

Warmer winters can disrupt hedgehogs' hibernation, causing them to wake up more frequently and deplete their energy reserves.

Weather changes

Changes in weather patterns can affect the availability of insects, hedgehogs' primary food source.

Disturbance of nesting sites

Human disturbance of nesting sites can stress hedgehogs and disrupt their breeding cycles, leading to fewer successful litters.

Fungal infections

Hedgehogs can be susceptible to fungal infections, particularly in damp conditions, which can weaken their immune systems and make them more vulnerable to other threats.

Ticks

Warmer, wetter winters can create ideal conditions for ticks to survive and reproduce. Ticks carry diseases which can pose a health risk to hedgehogs.

Human cruelty

Some people still harm hedgehogs intentionally, which can have devastating consequences for individual hedgehogs and populations.

Bonfires

Hedgehogs may seek shelter in unlit bonfires. When the bonfire is lit, the hedgehogs can be injured or killed as they will curl up rather than run away.

Litter

Hedgehogs can become trapped in discarded rubbish, such as plastic rings or cans.



Hedgehogs can run up to 6 miles per hour!

Possible Solutions



Research possible solutions, like creating hedgehog-friendly gardens, building nesting boxes, or slowing traffic in areas where hedgehogs live. Think about how these ideas can help protect hedgehogs and reduce the threats they face.

Once you have your information, write a hedgehog-friendly post for the school's social media page!

Max
150 words

In your post, explain why hedgehogs need help and share how people can protect them. Be creative and include simple tips that others can follow to make a real difference!



A hedgehog has
between 5000 and 7000
spines/quills (spikes)!