

# What do I need?

Printed copy of page 3

Autumn leaves

Cardboard  
(no bigger than A4 size)

Glue stick

Lolly stick

Scissors

Button

Black pen



## autumn leaf hedgehog

# What do I do?

Read page 2 to learn about hedgehogs and to find out why they are particularly at risk in the autumn.

Cut out the template on page 3. Trace the shape on your cardboard and cut it out to create your hedgehog body.

Gather your autumn leaves and stick them onto your hedgehog shape to create the spines. Make sure not to stick them over the hedgehog's head.

Stick your button right at the pointed end of the head to make the hedgehog's nose, then use your pen to draw on an eye.

Glue a lolly stick onto the back of your hedgehog so you can use it as a pop-up puppet or use it to decorate a plant pot.

### ***Did you know?***

Hedgehogs will be going into hibernation very soon and the perfect spot for them is a big pile of leaves in the garden, so make sure when you're collecting your leaves you don't disturb any potential habitats!



# more about hedgehogs

## Why are they called hedgehogs?

Hedgehogs take their name from where and how they forage for food. They root around under hedges for small creatures like slugs, snails, worms, mice and snakes to eat, and make a grunting noise like a pig or 'hog' whilst they do it. Hence the name 'hedgehogs'.

As hedgehogs love to eat all the pesky creatures that feed on garden plants, they are a gardener's best friend! Having hedgehogs in your garden is also a sign of a healthy soil environment, as they rely on the creatures in the soil ecosystem. If there are no hedgehogs in your garden it could be an indicator of poor soil which can lead to unhealthy plants. In 2020, British hedgehogs were classified as 'endangered to extinction', so we must make sure we're looking out for these spiny creatures.



## Why are they at risk?

Hedgehogs are at risk from three main garden threats: bonfires; pesticides; and fences which stop them moving between gardens.

To ensure you're not putting any hedgehogs in your garden at risk, check piles of logs and leaves before lighting a bonfire, or better still, build your bonfire on the day you plan to light it. You should also avoid using harmful pesticides which the hedgehogs could ingest.

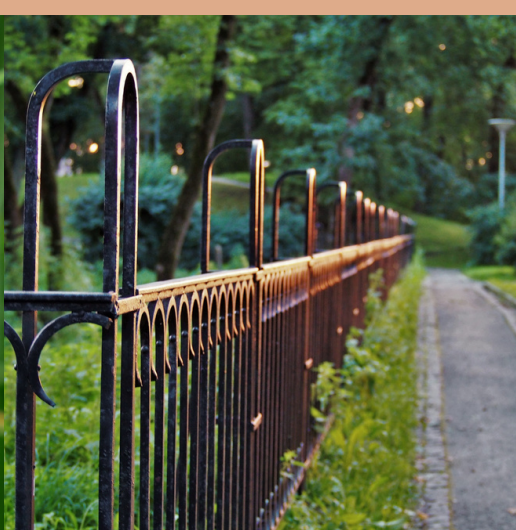
Finally, create gaps at the bottom of your fences or replace them with natural borders so that hedgehogs can easily move between habitats in search of food.



## What are they like?

Hedgehogs have sharp spines on their bodies and use them to deter predators by curling into a prickly ball.

In cold climates like Britain's hedgehogs go into hibernation in the winter and settle into log and leaf piles in back gardens. In hot desert climates like Morocco they do the opposite and sleep through the hottest months to protect themselves from heat exhaustion. In both climates hedgehogs are nocturnal and do the majority of their food foraging at night when there are fewer predators. So, if you see a hedgehog roaming around during the day it can be a sign that something's wrong.



Visit the Wildlife Trust website for more information on how to help a sick or injured hedgehog in your garden:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/what-do-if-you-find-wild-animal/help-hedgehog>



# hedgehog template

