



Creating a Hedgehog Friendly Environment

Summary:

Creating hedgehog-friendly environments in schools can have several benefits for children's learning and well-being. Hedgehog-friendly schools contribute to biodiversity and environmental education while fostering a sense of responsibility and empathy among students. By incorporating hedgehog-friendly practices, schools can teach children valuable lessons about conservation, ecosystems, and the interconnectedness of all living beings. Additionally, observing and caring for hedgehogs can provide students with opportunities for hands-on learning experiences in science, biology, and ecology. Overall, a hedgehog-friendly school approach not only supports the local ecosystem but also enhances the educational experience for children by connecting them to nature and instilling a sense of environmental stewardship.

This activity sheet is aimed at educators, to provide you with information and guidance so that you can lead this activity with your learners.

Key Stage / Age group: It can be easily tailored to any age group - the links below are from the [National Curriculum for England](#).

National Curriculum links (Primary):

KS1 & KS2 - Science

Working Scientifically - please see National Curriculum Guidance for working scientifically objectives

Year 1:

- Animals including humans: identify and name a variety of common animals
- Seasonal Changes: observe changes across the four seasons

Year 2:

- Living things and their habitats: identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants and how they depend on each other; identify and name a variety of plants and animals in their habitats including mirror habitats.

Year 4:

- Living things and their habitats: recognise that living things can be grouped in a variety of ways; explore and use classification keys to help group, identify and name a variety of living things in their local and wider environment; recognise that environments can change and that this can sometimes pose dangers to living things.

Year 5:

- Living things and their habitats: describe the differences in the life cycles of a mammal, an amphibian, an insect and a bird; describe the life process of reproduction in some plants and animals.

Year 6:

- Living things and their habitats: describe how living things are classified into broad groups according to common observable characteristics and based on similarities and differences including microorganisms, plants and animals; give reasons for classifying plants and animals based on specific characteristics.

KS1 & KS2 Geography:

Geographical skills and fieldwork:

Use simple fieldwork and observational skills to study the geography of their school and its grounds and the key human and physical features of its surrounding environment (KS1)

Use fieldwork to observe, measure, record and present the human and physical features in the local area using a range of methods, including sketch maps, plans and graphs and digital technologies (KS2)

KS1 & KS2 Design and Technology:

Make: Select from and use a range of tools and equipment to perform practical tasks

EYFS, KS1 and KS2 English**Activity Links:**

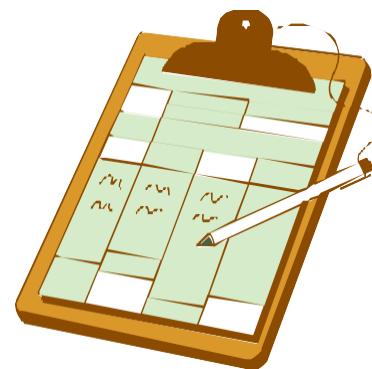
- ❖ This could be linked to the [BioBlitz activity](#). Is there any evidence of a Hedgehog present on the School grounds?
- ❖ Can you create or improve habitats that would improve the chances of a Hedgehog being present in your school grounds?
- ❖ Is there a local Hedgehog rescue centre nearby? They will often come in and discuss how Hedgehogs can be helped.
- ❖ Explore the differences between a garden that has fences, manicured lawns, etc and a wild garden. Explore why one is so much better than the other. Perhaps you could ask your pupils to fill in a small home survey and then make some suggestions on how they could improve the chances of encouraging Hedgehogs.



Surveying Our School for Hedgehog Friendliness

What you will need:

- Pen/Pencil
- Clip Board
- Wellies
- Magnifying
- Glasses Map of the School
- Camera/Tablet
- Litter Pickers & Rubbish Bag
- (Litter Free sites are hedgehog friendly sites!)



Survey the Area

Hey everyone! Have you ever thought about how hedgehogs might feel in our school? Are they happy and cosy, or do they face challenges? Let's find out together!

We're going to do a survey to make sure our school is a fantastic place for hedgehogs. Follow this guide step by step, and let's make our school hedgehog-friendly!

Step 1: Gather Your Team: Recruit some friends to join you on this exciting adventure! The more, the merrier. You can form teams and assign specific areas of the school to each group.

Step 2: Create a Survey Checklist: Make a checklist of things to look for in each area of the school. Here are some ideas:

1. **Shelter:** Are there cosy spots like bushes or small spaces where hedgehogs can hide?
2. **Food and Water:** Check for places where hedgehogs might find insects, worms, or water sources.
3. **Safe Pathways:** Ensure there are no obstacles or dangers like sharp objects or deep holes that hedgehogs might get stuck in.

Step 3: Explore the School Grounds: Take your checklist and explore the different areas of the school. Take notes on what you find. Don't forget to be respectful and avoid disturbing the environment.

Step 4: Document Your Findings: Use a notebook or a camera to document everything you discover. Take pictures of potential hedgehog-friendly spots or areas that need improvement.

Step 5: Analyse Your Results: Get together with your team and go over the information you collected. Discuss what's already good for hedgehogs and what could be better. Brainstorm ideas for improvements.

Step 6: Make Recommendations: Based on your analysis, create a list of recommendations to make the school more hedgehog-friendly. This could include adding more greenery, creating safe spaces, or reducing loud noises.

Step 7: Share Your Findings: Present your findings and recommendations to your classmates, teachers, and even the school administration. Use your creativity – maybe you can make a poster or a presentation to get everyone excited about helping hedgehogs!

By working together, we can create an environment where these cute creatures feel at home. Thank you for being hedgehog heroes!



Survey Checklist:

Shelter: Are there cosy spots like bushes or small spaces where hedgehogs can hide? Make a list of the areas you find here and then plot them on your map of the school.



Food and Water: Check for places where hedgehogs might find insects, worms, or water sources. Make a list of areas you find here and then plot them on your map of the school.

Safe Pathways: Find areas that might cause a problem for hedgehogs. Such as obstacles (fences/brick wall/steps or dangers like sharp objects or deep holes that hedgehogs might get stuck in. List them here and then plot them on your school map.

Do you think your school provides enough places for Hedgehogs to hide/sleep, eat/drink, and is your school safe enough for hedgehogs?



Additional Activities

Here a list of some suggested activities that you could implement:

1. **Hedgehog Observation:**

- Nature Walks or an Observation Journal if you're lucky enough to have a hedgehog you can observe.

2. **Hedgehog Life Cycle:**

- Create posters

3. **Habitat Design:**

- Design and create miniature hedgehog habitats.
- Discuss the essential elements of a hedgehog-friendly environment.

4. **Literary Exploration:**

- Read a hedgehog-themed story or poem/create them with the children

5. **Hedgehog Art Project:**

- Create hedgehog drawings, paintings, or sculptures.
- Display the artwork in the classroom or around the school to raise awareness.

6. **Maths and Data Analysis:**

- Collect data on hedgehog sightings or behaviours in the school area.
- Create simple graphs or charts to represent their findings.

7. **Hedgehog Facts Presentation:**

- Short presentations on specific aspects (e.g., diet, habitat, predators)

8. **Hedgehog Conservation Poster:**

- Creating informative posters that highlight ways to protect hedgehogs and their habitats.

9. **Community Engagement:**

- Initiate a school-wide or community project focused on creating a hedgehog-friendly space on the school grounds.
- Involve students in the planning and implementation of hedgehog-friendly initiatives for example planting wildflowers, building hedgehog shelters, creating additional water sources or making bug hotels and compost areas to improve hedgehog food source.



Learn More:

There are some fabulous cross-curriculum writing and reading opportunities when looking at how we can take greater care of the local environment around our schools and homes and make them more animal friendly. Non-fiction writing including instructions, explanation and information texts are ideally suited to this theme. In addition there are plenty of fiction and non-fiction books that can provide inspiration including: The Hodgehog, Dick King Smith; The Wild, Yuval Sommer; How to be more Hedgehog (a wonderful story about friendship and family for older readers), Anne-Marie Conway; Wild Child, Dara McAnulty and many many more.

Additional Information:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-build-hedgehog-home>

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

[https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/WAG%20get%20creative%20for%](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/WAG%20get%20creative%20for%20hedgehogs.pdf)

[20hedgehogs.pdf](https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2018-05/WAG%20get%20creative%20for%20hedgehogs.pdf) <https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/about-hedgehogs/>

<https://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk/the-basic-facts-2/>