

Hedgehogs are covered with sharp spines. When frightened, they curl up in a prickly ball but that's not all about hedgehogs!

Hedgehogs live in forests, woodlands and near ponds in Europe, Asia and Africa. They don't live in the United States, except as pets. Hedgehogs are covered with sharp spines. When frightened, they curl up in a prickly ball. During the day, they sleep like this so they are safe. They come out at night to hunt.



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Hedgehogs make grunting noises, which is why they're called "hedge-hogs."

These cute animals eat almost any insect, including worms, centipedes, snails, frogs, mice and even snakes.

Hedgehogs hibernate in the winter in cold areas. In the desert, they burrow under the ground during the day to stay cool.

Hedgehogs like to be alone. They don't make cuddly pets.

Some pet hedgehogs carry diseases, such as Salmonella. They're also very fragile and easily hurt. Think twice before getting a hedgehog for a pet, no matter how adorable they are.

Hedgehogs have more than 5000 spines (quills). The spines last about one year and are replaced by new spines.

There are 17 known species of hedgehogs around the world.

A hedgehog's eyesight is not the best but they have excellent hearing and smell.

A baby hedgehog is called a hoglet.

Hedgehogs are lactose intolerant - not good with dairy products.

Hedgehogs seem to be somewhat immune to snake venom. They do eat poisonous snakes.

Hedgehog Vocabulary

Rodent: A small mammal that eats grain, seeds and nuts

Spine: Sharp points

Prickly: Sharp

Hibernate: Deep winter sleep

Learn More All About hedgehogs

Question: Can hedgehogs eat poisonous snakes?

Answer: Hedgehogs seem to be somewhat immune to snake venom. They do eat poisonous snakes.

Question: What do pet hedgehogs eat?

Answer: Cat food, hedgehog food and insects.

Hedgehogs in Stories

Beatrix Potter's Mrs Tiggy-winkle is probably the most famous hedgehog in the world! Here is an extract to enjoy:

"Lucie opened the door: and what do you think there was inside the hill? - a nice clean kitchen with a lagged floor and wooden beams - just like any other farm kitchen. Only the ceiling was so low that Lucie's head nearly touched it; and the pots and pans were small, and so was everything there.

THERE was a nice hot singey smell; and at the table, with an iron in her hand stood a very stout short person staring anxiously at Lucie.

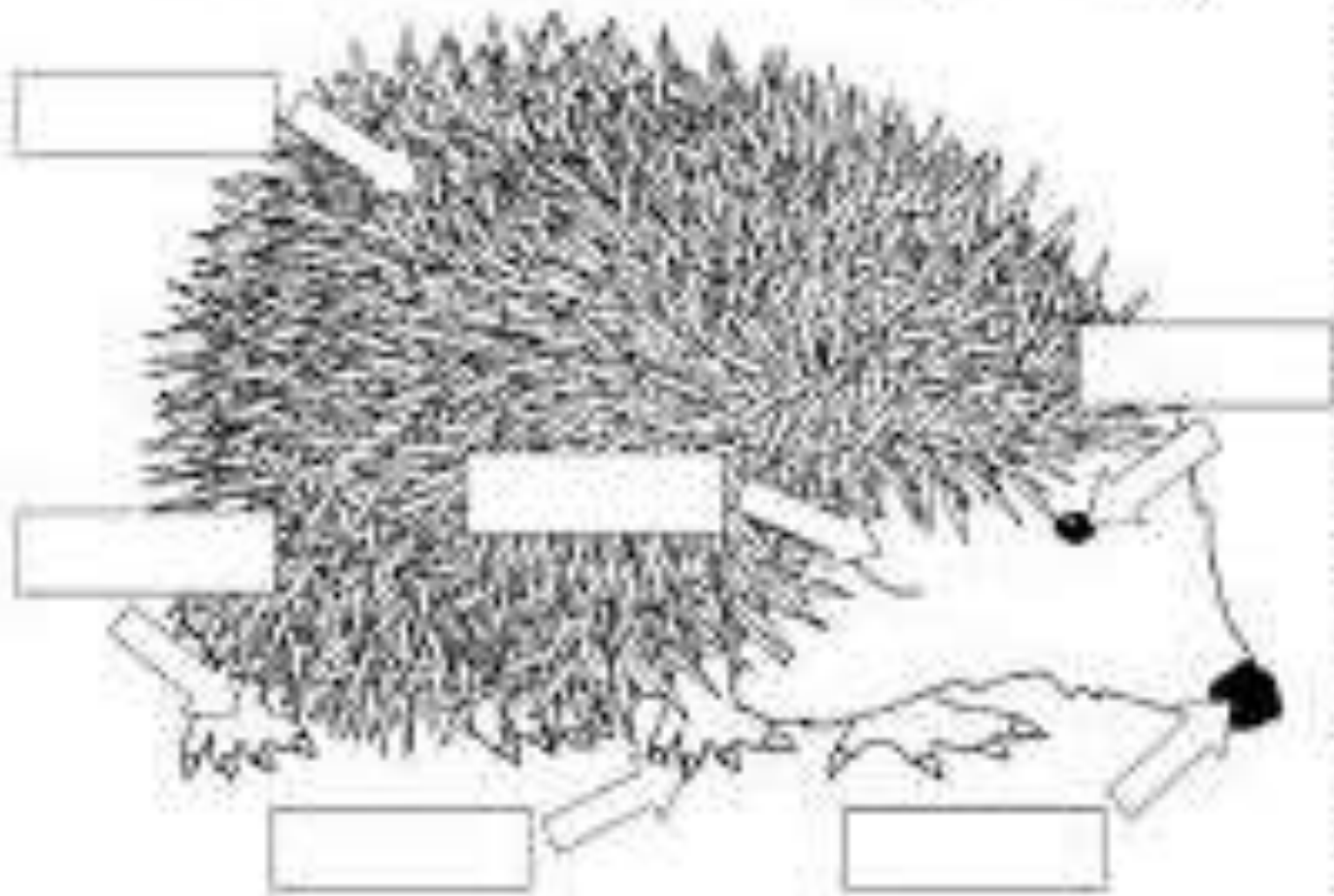
Her print gown was tucked up, and she was wearing a large apron over her striped petticoat. Her little black nose went sniffle, sniffle, snuffle, and her eyes went twinkle, twinkle; and underneath her cap--where Lucie had yellow curls--that little person had PRICKLES!

"Who are you?" said Lucie. "Have you seen my pocket-handkins?"

The little person made a bob-curtsey - "Oh, yes, if you please'm; my name is Mrs. Tiggy-winkle; oh, yes if you please'm, I'm an excellent clear-starcher!"

And she took something out of a clothes- basket, and spread it on the ironing-blanket.

Label the Hedgehog



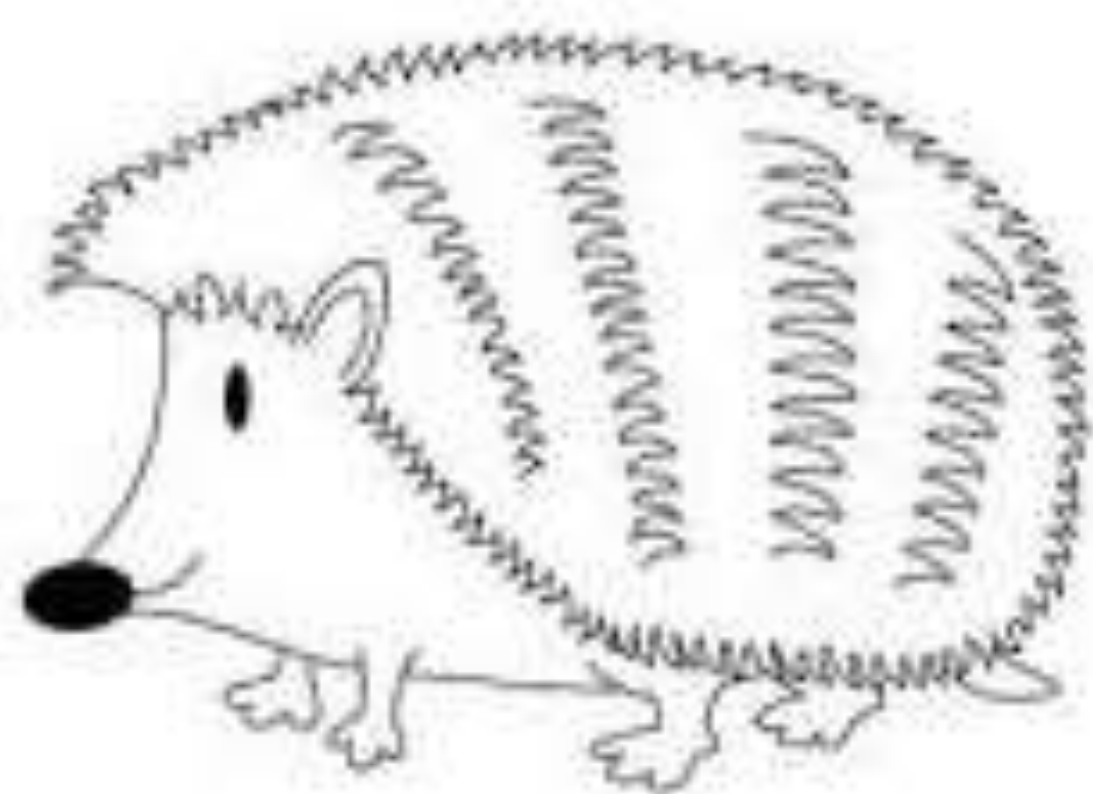
nose

spikes

eye

ear

foot



hedgehog

COLOUR BY NUMBERS



- | | | |
|--|--|--|
|  1 RED |  3 YELLOW |  5 GREEN |
|  2 BLUE |  4 BROWN |  6 ORANGE |

