

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)!