The Wonders of the Woodland: A Guide to Hedgehogs

Learning objective: To retrieve information from a non-chronological report and make inferences about the subject matter.

Read the report about hedgehogs carefully, then answer the questions below using full sentences.

Hedgehogs are fascinating, small mammals that are famous for their prickly appearance. These nocturnal creatures spend their nights searching for tasty treats like beetles, worms, and slugs. Their most famous feature is the coat of sharp spines covering their backs. When a hedgehog feels scared, it curls into a tight, prickly ball to protect its soft tummy from predators.

Hedgehogs live in a variety of habitats, including gardens, woodlands, and grassy meadows. During the cold winter months, when food becomes difficult to find, hedgehogs go into a deep sleep called hibernation. They build cosy nests made of leaves and dry grass to stay warm until spring arrives. Sadly, many hedgehogs are in danger because of busy roads and loss of natural spaces. To help them, many people leave out shallow dishes of water and small piles of logs in their gardens. Our friend Nova the owl often spots these busy little animals scurrying through the undergrowth during her night-time flights. By learning about their needs, we can make sure our gardens are safe, welcoming homes for these shy, spiky visitors.

Word bank: nocturnal · hibernation · habitat · predators · spines

1. What does a hedgehog do when it feels frightened by a predator? (2 marks)

2. Name two things that a hedgehog might eat. (2 marks)

3. Why do hedgehogs hibernate during the winter months? (2 marks)

4. Based on the text, why might it be difficult for a hedgehog to live in a busy city? (2 marks)

5. Do you think hedgehogs are good for a garden? Explain your answer using evidence from the text. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a hedgehog curled into a ball in a garden habitat, making sure to include some of the leaves or logs mentioned in the text.

Extension challenge: Imagine you are a hedgehog waking up from hibernation. Write three sentences describing what you see and how you feel on the first day of spring.