Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs can be found almost everywhere in the UK. They live in cities and towns. Additionally, they can also be found on railway land, parks and gardens. They do not live on mountainsides because there is not much food for them and there are not many places for them to nest.

Appearance

Hedgehogs are small, spiky animals. Adult hedgehogs have long spines along their backs and sides, which gives them their spiky appearance. However, these spines do not grow on their faces or legs. Some hedgehogs can have up to seven thousand spines, which last for around a year before dropping out and being replaced by new ones.

Interesting fact

A baby hedgehog is called a 'hoglet'. A male hedgehog is called a 'boar' and a female is called a 'sow'.

Diet

Hedgehogs are often called the Garden's Friend, because they eat the slugs that eat plants and cause damage to the garden. They can eat up to forty or more slugs a night. They also eat small creatures, such as: insects, worms, centipedes, snails, mice, frogs and snakes.

Interesting fact

Milk makes hedgehogs very ill as they are lactose intolerant.

Hedgehog habits

Hedgehogs visit a lot of gardens. A garden can have up to ten different hedgehogs passing through it. They are very nosey animals and sometimes need rescuing from getting their heads stuck in empty yoghurt pots, tine and plastic cups.

Interesting fact

When a hedgehog feels scared, it will roll itself up into a ball so that its spikes will frighten off its enemies.

Helping a hedgehog

To not endanger hedgehogs, people can take precautions to keep the spiky mammals' habitat safe.

Slug pellets - Do not use these to kill slugs. Hedgehogs eat the pellets or dead slugs and the poison in them can kill the hedgehogs.

Garden ponds- Hedgehogs can fall into ponds and drown. To ensure that this does not happen, people can check that their ponds have sloping sides, so a hedgehog can get out safely if they fell in. In addition, adding netting or chicken wire to cover a pond, can help to ensure that hedgehogs do not accidently fall in.

Nesting places – Hedgehogs nest in piles of leaves. Gardeners, when tidying their gardens, need to be careful to not accidentally wake a sleeping hedgehog.

lactose intolerant- is a digestive problem where the body is unable to digest lactose, a type of sugar mainly found in milk and dairy products.

slug pellets- poisonous tablets left out in the garden to kill slugs.

Non-Chronological Report Text Features Key

Text Title: _____

Here are the features of a report text. Use your coloured pens, pencils or highlighters to identify parts of your text which show each feature. For example, you could colour the 'present tense verbs' box in red, then use the **same** colour to underline examples of the present tense in yo   ext.

Topic title covers the whole subject.	**Factual language** and description.
Brief **introduction paragraph** gives who/ what/ where overview.	**Present tense** verbs (unless it's a historical report).
Information organised into **categories**.	**Technical language** may be explained in a glossary.
Each category has a **sub-heading**.	**Third person** makes it impersonal.
Some information may be in *fact boxes* or **bullet-point** lists.	**Formal tone**.
Extra details support the main points.	