

1.14 Information about hedgehogs

Topic: Animals
Subtopic: Mammals
Activity type/skill: Text organisation
Literacy focus: Reading
Genre: Information reports

Objective

- Recognise the structure of an information report.

What you need

- Student worksheet (see next page)
- [Audio track 1.14](#)
- [Animals vocab cards](#)

What to do

1. Play track 1.14 (Track 4 for this topic) and have students listen to the text being read while they look at the pictures in the student worksheet.
2. Play the track again and have students read the text.
3. Point out the glossary at the end of the text. Explain that the glossary contains specialist vocabulary that is not explained in the text or illustrations. Talk about the words in the glossary.
4. Check that the students can recall the target vocabulary for mammals.
5. Explain how an information report is organised – title, classification and description – with details grouped into topics.
6. Explain that this is the organisation they will find in texts in science as well as technology, home economics and other subjects where phenomena are classified and described.
7. Help students to relate the questions in the subheadings to the content of each section of the text.

Extending the activity

- Find information about other mammals on websites (for example, www.zoo.org.au/Learning/Animal_Profiles), and help the students identify the parts of the text.
- Help them understand that some subheadings mean the same, for example: What do they look like? = appearance.
- Talk about the importance of illustrations to aid understanding and give additional information.



Hedgehogs

Hedgehogs are mammals.

What do they look like?

Hedgehogs are small grey or brown animals. They have short strong legs and a long nose. Their backs and heads are covered with grey or brown spines. They are 15 to 35 centimetres long.



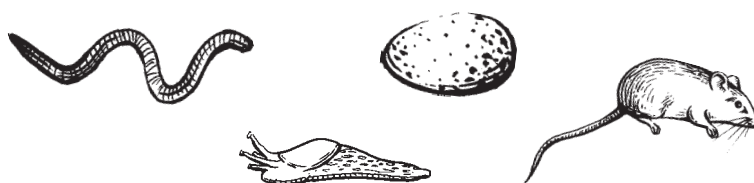
Where do they live?

Hedgehogs live in places where there are trees and grass.



What do they eat?

Hedgehogs eat worms, slugs, birds' eggs and small mammals. They sleep in the daytime and look for food at night. Hedgehogs cannot see well, but they can hear and smell very well. They hear and smell things to eat.



Title

Classification

What are they?

Description

What do they look like?

Where do they live?

What do they eat?

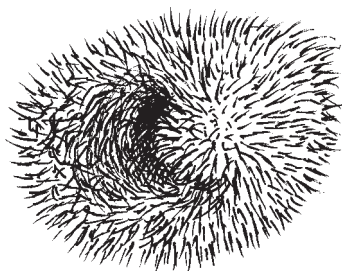
What else do they do?

What else do they do?

Female hedgehogs produce four or five babies at a time. Baby hedgehogs cannot see and have no spines when they are born. They grow quickly. After four weeks they have about 3000 spines and they are ready to leave their mother.



When there is danger, hedgehogs make themselves into a prickly ball of spines.



Hedgehogs make warm nests of grass and leaves. They sleep in their nests all the time in winter. This is called **hibernation**.



Hedgehogs live for about seven years.

Glossary

classification: the group something belongs to

description: what something is like

danger: something that can hurt you

hibernation: sleeping all the time in winter

spines: long, sharp points on an animal's body