

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## What Does a Hedgehog Eat?

Hedgehogs are fascinating creatures with unique diets. They are classified as omnivores, meaning they eat both plants and animals. This helps them find food in various habitats where they live. Hedgehogs are opportunistic feeders, which means they eat what they can find easily.

The main food sources for hedgehogs include insects, worms, snails, and spiders. These small creatures provide the protein hedgehogs need to stay strong and healthy. Hedgehogs also eat fruits, berries, and vegetables, especially when insects are harder to find. They help control pests in gardens by eating insects that might harm plants.

Hedgehogs hunt for their food mainly at night because they are nocturnal animals. They use their strong sense of smell and hearing to locate prey in the soil and under leaves. Once they find food, they use their small but sharp teeth to chew it thoroughly.

In the wild, hedgehogs get most of their food by foraging on the ground. They dig through leaves, grass, and soil to uncover insects and worms. If they are kept as pets, hedgehogs need a balanced diet, which can include specialized hedgehog food, cooked chicken, and fruits.

Hedgehogs play an essential role in their ecosystems by controlling insect populations. Their diet makes them helpful animals in both forests and gardens.