

Name \_\_\_\_\_



### What Does a Hedgehog Look Like?

Hedgehogs are small, round mammals covered in sharp spines. They have short legs and a pointed snout, giving them a unique appearance. Their size can range from 5 to 12 inches long, depending on the species. Most hedgehogs weigh between 1 to 2 pounds, making them easy to hold in your

hands. Their spines, also called quills, are made of keratin, the same material as human nails. These quills help protect the hedgehog from predators by making them hard to bite or attack.

The color of a hedgehog can vary. Some have cream or white spines, while others have darker brown or even gray shades. Their faces and bellies are usually covered with soft fur that is lighter in color than their spines.

Hedgehogs have some interesting body features. They don't have stripes or horns, but their quills are unique among small mammals. When threatened, a hedgehog can curl into a tight ball, hiding its face and soft belly while exposing only its spines. This clever defense makes it hard for predators like foxes or owls to harm them.

Hedgehogs also have small black eyes and tiny ears, which can be hard to spot under their quills. Their keen sense of smell and sharp hearing help them find food, like insects, worms, and fruits. Hedgehogs may be small, but their special body features make them easy to recognize and fascinating to learn about.