

## Spike's Missing Spikes!

Hedgehogs are known for their spiky backs! Yet their quills, or spikes as they are most commonly referred to, aren't that different from our nails or hair. They are both made of keratin, which is what our hair and nails are made of.

When hedgehogs are born (called hoglets) their spines are soft and short. As they grow their spines harden, becoming sharper and longer.

**Missing quills:** Spike's quills are missing. Can you help collect leaves from outside to help create some new protection for Spike? Let your imagination take over and find other ways to help create Spike's missing quills.

**Threading:** Spike is trying to pick up a leaf but he keeps dropping it. Can you use some thread to sew the leaf to Spike?



### FUN FACTS!

Have you ever seen a hedgehog licking itself? Well they aren't cleaning themselves, they are doing something called self-anointing!

Hedgehogs are thought to be able to eat certain plant toxins/poisonous plants without getting sick. They then use this to create a coating for their spikes combined with their saliva. It's thought this behaviour is a mechanism for protection or as a form of scent camouflage by making their spikes smell like their environment, making it harder for predators to find them.



