

Obstacle Game

Age: All ages

Time: 1 hour +

Setting: Outdoors & indoors

Materials required: Hazard & Benefits card

Background: Now that you have the ideal hedgehog home you need to find the perfect spot to place it! In this activity the students will get some background information on hedgehogs (provided by the educators) and must find the best location to place their new habitat. Before starting this activity we suggest you do other background activities that help students get to know hedgehogs; their habitats and lifecycle dependent on student's level. We have a basic information sheet labelled 'Get to know Spike' you can use.

Directions for activity:

Indoor activity: Hedgehogs can travel large distances in one night (12 miles) to find food and a safe space to rest and make their home. (*For older students you could work out on a map how far this is, is it as far as their own home to the school?*) But they often encounter many dangers, it's hard for them to get around when their environment is fragmented.

To display this to the students, create an obstacle course in your classroom. To get to different areas students would have to pick a card (*from the board game activity also included below*) to see if they were lucky to pick a green or yellow leaf card. Anyone who gets a red card has to go back to the start.

Otherwise use the maze cards included in this activity, answers are also provided.

Outdoors: For this activity students will complete a survey of the school grounds to find suitable habitat zones from a hedgehog's point of view. We suggest the educators pick out a few good and bad zones and facilitate students learning by getting them to compare. Once a prime spot has been chosen students can find some examples of how to improve the area to encourage hedgehogs and animals they predate on. You could have students try to spot animals that hedgehogs like to eat and plants they use.

Top tip: We suggest splitting the activity in two, start off with the indoors activity and then move on outdoors. Otherwise each activity can be done separately.

Extensions:

- Design a sign to be placed around the hedgehog area to remind other students to be mindful.
- Hibernating animals. Extension activity on seasons and what hibernation is, examples of animals that hibernate. How they keep insulated in winter, students could test different materials to work out which has the best insulation properties.
- When the hedgehog home has been in place and you have a resident hedgehog, children can be taken around the grounds to try and spot hedgehog footprints. Write down any other interesting prints you find.









