

Decision Game – Answers plus points

1. There is a large pile of sticks and branches in the corner of the garden.

- **A. Set it alight and have a bonfire to tidy up the garden → - 2 points!**

Hedgehogs often shelter in piles of sticks and leaves so can be injured or killed if the pile is not checked first.



- **B. Move it to another area before setting it alight → + 1 point.**

By moving the pile first you're checking no hedgehogs are in there to be injured.

- **C. Leave it where it is → + 3 points!**

Stick piles make great sites for hedgehogs to shelter in anytime and to hibernate in over winter. They also make homes for the creatures hedgehogs like to eat – a hedgehog Bed & Breakfast all in one!

- **D. Put it on the compost heap → + 2 points!**

Open compost heaps provide food and shelter for the creatures hedgehogs like to eat.

2. There is a large overgrown pond.

- **A. Fill the pond in so nothing can fall in it and drown → -1 point!**

You'd be making sure that hedgehogs can't fall in and drown but ponds are important habitats for lots of wildlife, and are a vital source of freshwater for hedgehogs to drink.

- **B. Leave it as it is → + 1 point!**

Ponds are important habitats for wildlife but don't forget to check the edges as a hedgehog could fall in and drown if the sides are too steep for it to climb out.

- **C. Add some fish → - 1 point!**

Unless there are some refuge areas in the pond the fish can't get into, adding fish will probably make the pond less wildlife friendly as they eat larvae and eggs, and stir up the sediments.

- **D. Cut back some of the overgrown plants and add some large stones or logs at the edge → + 2 points!**

Making sure you leave some larger aquatic plants and grasses trailing into the water for invertebrates is great, and adding something at the edge means if a hedgehog falls in it can swim to the edge and climb back out again.

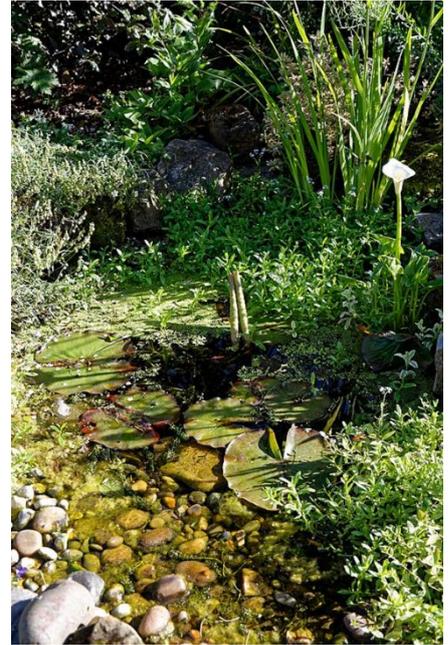


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3. One of the tall fence panels has fallen down.

- **A. Plant a hedge instead → + 2 points!**

Not only are you allowing hedgehogs easy access to neighbouring gardens, you're also providing food & shelter too!



- **B. Replace or repair the fence panel → - 2 points!**

Solid fences and walls fragment the hedgehog's habitat, stopping them roaming around 2km every night in search of food or mates.

- **C. Repair the fence but cut out a cd-sized hole at ground level → + 2 points!**

Connect your garden with your neighbour's, as a single garden is not big enough to sustain a hedgehog. Check it's ok with your neighbours first though... perhaps they'll make some more holes the other side and your whole street could become a **'Hedgehog Highway'!**



Image credit: Hedgehog street.org

4. You notice that there are lots of plants eaten by slugs and snails.



- **A. Put down some slug pellets to get rid of the slugs and snails → - 2 points!**

Unless they're organic pellets, the chemicals in slug pellets may harm hedgehogs and other animals that eat slugs who've eaten the pellets. By killing all the slugs we are also taking food away from hedgehogs.

- **B. Do nothing → +1 point!**

Slugs and snails have to eat too. The more of them there are, the more attractive your garden will be to hungry hedgehogs!

- **C. Add some garden features to attract hedgehogs, frogs and toads → +2 points!**

Often called 'Gardener's friends' these animals eat other creatures often seen as pests in the garden, so by encouraging these predators they can control the pests so their numbers don't get too high and they don't ruin all the plants!

5. You want to put out some food for hedgehogs.

- **A. Put out a saucer of milk → -2 points** as hedgehogs are lactose intolerant so this can give them upset stomachs!
- **B. Put out some bread → - 1 point!**

Bread has little nutritional value for hedgehogs so just fills them up without the benefits of the right balance of nutrients to keep them healthy.

- **C. Put out some meaty cat food and fresh water → + 2 points!**

Meaty cat or dog food is closest to their natural invertebrate diet, or you can even buy special hedgehog food. Autumn is a great time to give your garden hedgehogs a bit of feeding help as they are building up their fat reserves to survive their winter hibernation.



Well done! How did you do?

- **10+ points – Fantastic! You're a Garden Champion!** You know exactly how to make a garden friendly for hedgehogs and other wildlife. Well done! If you've not done it already why don't you give your, or a friend's garden a wildlife makeover!
- **5 to 10 points** – Good effort. You're on your way to becoming a Garden Champion. Check out the 'We have the power!' list for hints and tips on how to make gardens more wildlife friendly, and perhaps give your, or a friend's garden a wildlife makeover!
- **Less than 5 points** – Go on....have another go!

Garden
Champion!

