



GCSE

3700U30-1A



A21-3700U30-1A

WEDNESDAY, 3 NOVEMBER 2021 – MORNING

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

UNIT 3

Reading and Writing: Argumentation, Persuasion and Instructional

Resource Material

For use with Section A

BLANK PAGE

Text A is a poster which provides some facts about hedgehogs.

INTERESTING HEDGEHOG FACTS

- The name for a baby hedgehog is a hoglet.
- Hedgehogs have poor eyesight, but excellent senses of smell and hearing.
- Hedgehogs got their name through their foraging habits.
- Each hedgehog has around 5,000 spines.
- Hedgehogs are known as the gardener's friend.
- The most common domesticated hedgehog is the African pygmy hedgehog.
- European hedgehogs hibernate throughout winter.



Text B is taken from a blog advising people on how to rescue troubled hedgehogs.

How to rescue a troubled hedgehog

So, you have found an injured hedgehog. Don't panic. Follow the guidelines below and you might just save a life.

Heat

If the hedgehog feels cold to the touch when you pick it up, provide heat by covering it with a towel or fleece.

House

Place it in a deep box or cat basket that it can't escape from. Put some newspaper down first to soak up any accidents. Don't forget some air holes in the box so it can breathe.

Grab

Hedgehogs have spines and they can be very sharp. You will need to wear some thick gloves or get a couple of towels to lift it without getting spiked. Do not drop it.

Get advice

Contact your local RSPCA. You can take injured hedgehogs to your local vet who will provide emergency treatment free of charge.

Text C explains why one man is dedicated to helping hedgehogs.

Hedgehogs, heroes of the garden

In the beginning, there was a hedgehog called Nigel. I can remember the exact moment we met. It was 1993, and I was doing a research project for the RSPCA in which I was studying the behaviour of hedgehogs in the wild after they had spent time in captivity. I was based in a field and was monitoring their movements using radio tagging – attaching miniature transmitters to their spines – and noting their progress.

One night, I had finished work at 4am. My only water source was outside, so I ventured into the night to clean my teeth. That was when I saw Nigel. He was snuffling around outside, and I recognised him immediately. I'd met him several weeks earlier during the tagging process, and was struck by his speed, so I named him after the racing driver Nigel Mansell. I watched him for several minutes, and when he wandered off, I followed. After about an hour, he came to a halt, and I lay down opposite him. And then something strange happened. He looked up at me, and seemed to notice me for the first time. I looked into his eyes. It was then that I got a sense of his genuine wildness. It's not something that you experience very often. And so began my love affair with these mysterious, beautiful creatures.

Many people believe hedgehogs are abundant in Britain, but in 2007 they were added to the Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP), one of the most-respected reference sources on endangered wildlife. Their numbers have been decimated by approximately 30% since 2002 and nowadays their population in this country is estimated to be as low as one million. This is a huge problem. They are a gardener's best friend. They love eating slugs, caterpillars and beetles, vacuuming up unwanted invertebrates. We need them to help prevent the destruction of garden crops. The destruction of our landscape – through the replacement of hedgerows and fields with fences, roads and buildings – has obliterated their natural habitat. If our countryside cannot support its wildlife then our countryside is sick.

If you are lucky enough to have a garden, see if you can encourage a hedgehog in as a visitor. If you want to create the perfect hedgehog garden, the best thing you can do is a little less gardening and never use any insecticides. Make the garden more like a hedgehog habitat, have a corner that is a little wilder, make sure that hedgehogs can get in and out. Take a blanket and sit quietly, waiting and listening to the tell-tale sounds of a snuffling hedgehog. And when the hedgehog has come to your garden a few times – or perhaps when several hedgehogs have visited – try your luck at getting closer. Approach quietly enough to allow them to continue feeding. Get a better look at them – they are a true gateway to the natural world. I strongly believe that through caring for hedgehogs we can improve our mental health and feel better about ourselves.

Hedgehogs are one of Britain's best-loved wild animals so let's try to protect them, not add to their struggles.

Text D is taken from a newspaper article.

Protect hedgehogs on Bonfire Night



If you are planning a bonfire party or a family night on November 5, and have decided to host the celebration at your place, a bonfire in your garden is a must. However, little hedgehogs are at serious risk as they often decide to make your wood piles into their homes.

To limit the chances of harming a hedgehog, construct your bonfire the day you plan to light it. This will prevent our friends from getting cosy between the leaves. If you have no choice but to build your wood pile days before, build a one metre high chicken wire wall, sloping outwards, to prevent the hedgehogs from climbing it, they are surprisingly good climbers! Hold the wall in place with stakes to secure everything so that hedgehogs do not become tangled in the netting. A stack of old tyres around the base can also work instead. Before lighting, make sure to check your wood pile one last time. Hedgehogs tend to hide in the centre and base of the bonfire. Check the bottom metre or so by gently lifting the bonfire section by section with a pole or broom. Never use a spade or fork as these can cause injuries. Using a torch will help and listen for a hissing sound. This is the noise hedgehogs make when disturbed. When it is finally time for the burning celebration, light your bonfire on one side, to provide an escape route to any hedgehog that might be well-hidden. Never use petroleum or firelighters as these may poison hedgehogs.

If you find one of these little forest creatures during your search, you can give it dog or cat food. Avoid giving them cow's milk, as it can give them diarrhoea. If you ever come across a hedgehog during daytime, be concerned. It could be an orphan or it may need medical care. Take extra care if the animal is small as it may need rescuing to survive the hibernation period. In these cases, call The British Hedgehog Preservation Society as soon as possible for further advice and the numbers of local contacts.

Text E is an article explaining the reasons why hedgehogs are struggling to survive.

How did things get so bad for hedgehogs?

The hedgehog, an emblem of conservation and, officially, Britain's most-loved wild animal is now struggling to survive. While it is difficult to monitor hedgehog numbers, it is believed they could be down by over half in rural areas and a third in urban areas since 2000.

Hedgehogs are under threat. The way we farm has changed dramatically over the decades. Chemical treatments mean that many creatures, such as worms, beetles, caterpillars, slugs and millipedes – the hedgehog's main diet – have been killed off. "We're farming harder, so there is less space for wildlife," says natural history crusader Peter Smith.

Due to modern farming methods there has been a significant loss of hedges which has taken away valuable hedgehog nesting sites, corridors for movement and cover from predators.

Badgers are part of the picture, too, competing with hedgehogs for worms and beetles. Hedgehogs avoid areas where badgers live. When conditions are good, there is enough food for both species. But when conditions deteriorate, hedgehogs lose out.

These countryside issues mean that our suburbs, particularly neighbourhoods with parks, commonland, woods and, of course, gardens, have become an essential refuge for hedgehogs. But here, too, hedgehogs are being threatened. Decking, driveways, developments, concrete-based fences and roads make the search for food difficult.

The use of pesticides on farmland and in gardens may also have reduced the hedgehog's food supply. In urban areas, the use of fencing, loss of greenery in gardens and increasing development is thought to be negatively impacting hedgehog populations too. Another threat is roads, with many thousands of hedgehogs killed by cars each year.

Research shows that in the best hedgehog habitat, a hedgehog needs an open area of at least 90 hectares to thrive. It's difficult to find blocks of land that size that aren't riddled by roads or other obstacles. And as populations of hedgehogs become smaller, a single event can wipe out large numbers. A whole neighbourhood can lose all its hedgehogs very quickly.

This gloomy picture worsens when the uncertain effects of climate change and disease are taken into account.