

Mammal Skulls and Teeth



Hedgehog



What do we know about hedgehogs?

Am I nocturnal?

Where do I sleep?

What do I eat?

What might eat me?



What do we know about hedgehogs?

1. Am I nocturnal?

Yes

2. Where do I sleep?

Sheltered under a hedge or
in the undergrowth

3. What might eat me?

Badgers.

4. What do I eat?

Earthworms,
caterpillars, slugs,
centipedes, beetles
and birds' eggs



What else can we learn by looking carefully at it?

How do protect myself
from the weather?

How do I find
my food?



What else can we learn by looking carefully at it?

5. How do protect myself from the weather?

My hair and prickles keep me warm and safe from knocks and scratches. I shelter under hedges or in my nest, to keep dry.

6. How do I find my food?

My eyesight is poor but I can smell and hear very well. I sniff up in the air and along the ground, to search for food.



How does the hedgehog keep safe from being eaten by predators?

What do you notice about:

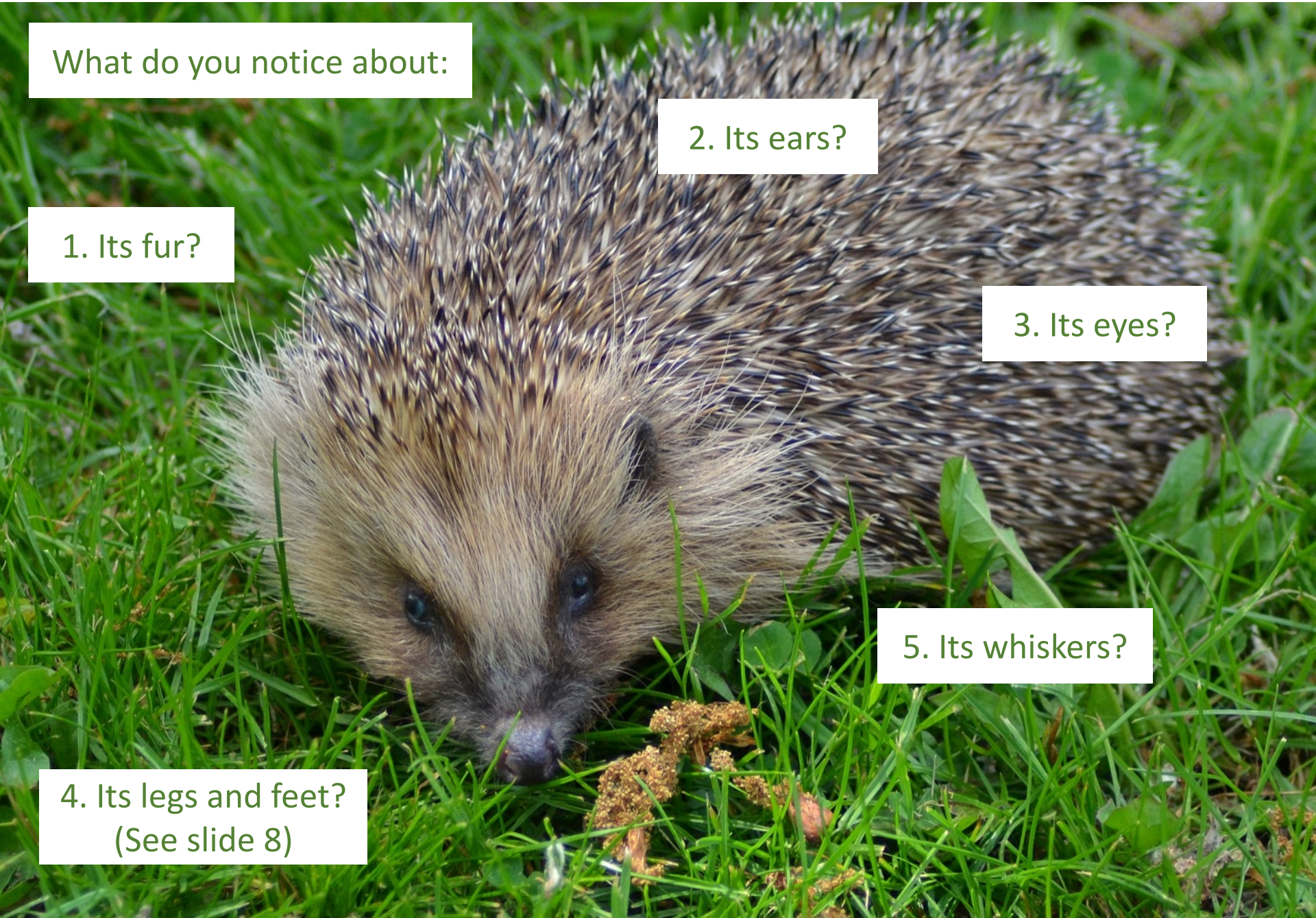
1. Its fur?

2. Its ears?

3. Its eyes?

4. Its legs and feet?
(See slide 8)

5. Its whiskers?



How does the hedgehog keep safe from being eaten by predators?

What do you notice about:

1. Its fur?

Its back is covered in 1,000's of spines. Hedgehogs roll up into a prickly ball, if attacked. Their head and tummy are covered in stiff hairs. It is well camouflaged.

2. Its ears?

It has small ears

3. Its eyes?

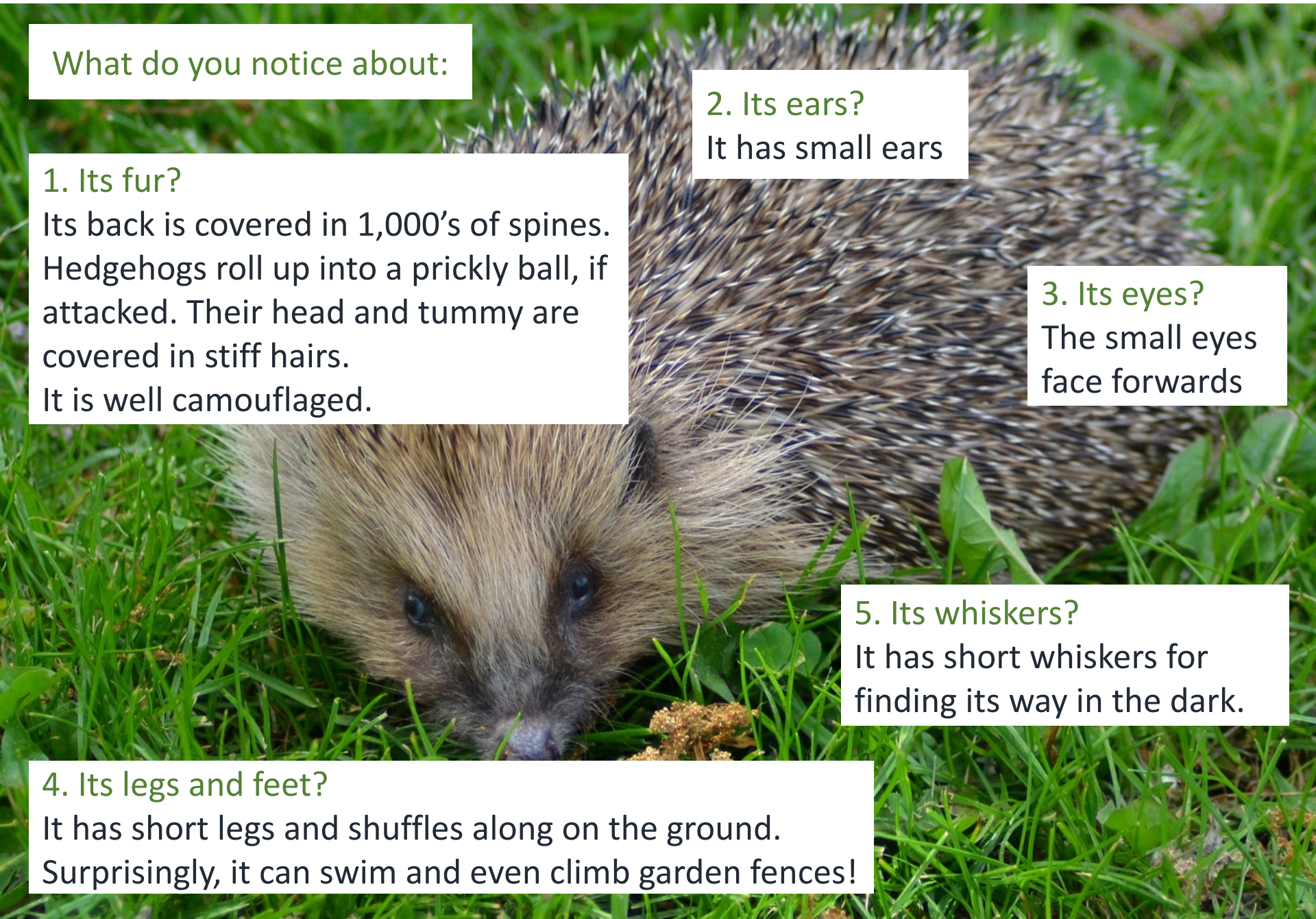
The small eyes face forwards

5. Its whiskers?

It has short whiskers for finding its way in the dark.

4. Its legs and feet?

It has short legs and shuffles along on the ground. Surprisingly, it can swim and even climb garden fences!



What have we learned? What do you notice about these hedgehogs?



Can we find out any more, when we look at a hedgehog skull?

What kind of teeth do I have?

Where do my eyes go?



What is this hole?

Can we find out anything else when we look at a hedgehog skull?

1. What kind of teeth do I have?

Incisors to grab and bite worms and insects

2. Where do my eyes go?

Eye socket, low down on the skull

Pointed molars to crunch the exoskeletons of insects and snails

3. What is this?
Ear hole



Hedgehog's skull - what else can you see in these pictures?



Rows of small, pointed teeth

Back of the skull



Brain goes in here



Underneath the solid skull and jawbone

Let's compare a hedgehog skull with a rabbit skull. What is the same and what is different? What does this tell us about a rabbit?



Let's compare the sizes of different animal skulls

Animal	Skull Length	Skull Height
Hedgehog	3.5cm	0.8cm
Squirrel	6cm	2cm
Rabbit	8.5cm	3.5cm
Badger	13cm	6cm
Fox	15cm	6cm
Fallow Deer	26cm	13cm



Badger



Rabbit



Squirrel



Fox



Deer



Hedgehog

Extra Background Information for Teachers

- Hedgehogs are **insectivores**. They eat earthworms, slugs, snails, beetles and other invertebrates which live on the ground. They may also eat the eggs and chicks of birds which nest on the ground. They have rows of small, pointed teeth for grabbing and biting up their food.
- Hedgehogs take shelter in the undergrowth and in hedges. They build a ball-shaped nest of leaves, moss and grass. In autumn, they build a special nest to **hibernate** in. This is built under cover, maybe even in a rabbit hole or under a shed. It is called a '**hibernaculum**'. They may build two of these nests and move between them.
- **Habitat**. Hedgehogs live along the edge of woods, fields and meadows, where there are hedges and thick undergrowth such as brambles, nettles, thistles, bracken and low bushes. They also live in urban gardens and parks.
- **Rabbits** are **herbivores**. They eat grass, farmers' crops, vegetables and roots. They have very large incisors and a gap between the incisors and molars. Rabbits are bigger than hedgehogs. They have soft hair and no spines. They are prey to many animals, so have huge eyes and big ears to watch out for danger, from all sides. They have a light skull. See the Rabbit PowerPoint, for more information.

Find Out More

[The Nature Collection](http://www.thenaturecollection.co.uk/photos.html) is an extraordinary collection of animal bones, skeletons, feathers, antlers, skins and photographs and was created by Susanna Ramsey. Click here to find out more about the skeletons of our local animals and for information on a range of British wildlife products created with the TTS schools resources catalogue <http://www.thenaturecollection.co.uk/photos.html>

The Mammal Society

<https://www.mammal.org.uk/species-hub/full-species-hub/discover-mammals/species-hedgehog/>

The Wildlife Trusts

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/wildlife-explorer/mammals/european-hedgehog>

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/other-garden-wildlife/mammals/hedgehog/>

The British Wildlife Centre

<https://britishwildlifecentre.co.uk/planyourvisit/animals/hedgehog/>

These hedgehog photos were all taken here.



This slideshow was created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust and The Nature Collection

