

# PROJECT WEEK LITTLE HEDGEHOG



With the beleduc additional material the children can learn all about the topic of „Hedgehog“ for a week. Reading, singing, playing and being creative. The „Hedgehog Project week“ contains a lot of great ideas from Monday to Friday.

## READING STORY

Nothing is better than a reading story: With this movement story and the finger games the children learn more about the little hedgehog.

## EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HEDGEHOG – PROFILE

We have prepared some questions in a child friendly way to present the topic „hedgehog“ in an interesting way. A small fact sheet completes all the topics and the children become little hedgehog experts. This makes fun and clever!

## TEMPLATES FOR PAINTING, CRAFTING AND SOME RIDDLES

Here you can easily download the colouring pictures and craft ideas and every child can become creative and take home some great works of art.

## FUNNY HEDGEHOG GAMES IN THE GROUP

Now it's time to move! A funny circle game for the whole group. Shortly explained and let's go!

## HEDGEHOG QUIZ FOR BEGINNERS AND ADVANCED

Finally the children can learn more about the hedgehog with our quiz. What does he eat, how long does he sleep in the winter, who are his enemies and how big are hedgehogs? The first child who answers 5 questions correct, is the winner and is the first who gets the handpuppet hedgehog.

## HEDGEHOG DIPLOMA

Of course after the project week everyone gets a finger puppet a diploma. Just print it out and fill in the name of the children.

**Have fun with the beleduc hedgehog project week!**

# INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE HEDGEHOG



Age: 4+



## SHORT PROFILE HEDGEHOG

### Size

10–45 cm

### Weight

40–60 gr (smallest species),  
870–1100 gr (largest species)

### Life expectancy

3–6 years

### Food

Earthworms, insects, frogs

### Enemies

Owls, dogs, Foxes

### Habitat

Europe, Africa, Asia

### Living space

Forrest, grassland

### Special characteristics

- Active at dawn and dusk and at night
- Have grey-brown, thick spines on the body
- Hedgehogs are loners

Before you start the game, we recommend you to talk about hedgehogs with the children. Questions you could introduce in the morning circle include, for instance:

1. **Have you ever seen a hedgehog?**
2. **Where have you seen a hedgehog?**
3. **How big is a hedgehog?** Show me with your hands.
4. **What colour is a hedgehog?** Spines, underside (tummy), body.
5. **How can you help hedgehogs in winter?**  
Leave them alone and put leaf piles in the garden to provide them with shelter.
6. **Can you hear hedgehogs?** Yes, they grunt and huff.
7. **What is dangerous for hedgehogs?**  
Dogs which are not on the lead, cars on roads, people who pollute the environment and by doing so destroy the hedgehog's habitat (surroundings).
8. **Can you just touch hedgehogs?**  
No, you may get hurt and there is a danger of infection, because hedgehogs can pass on (transmit) diseases.
9. **Where do hedgehogs like to hide?**  
Piles of leaves, hedges, tree stumps.
10. **What colour are hedgehogs' eyes?** Black.
11. **Do hedgehogs live on the ground, on trees or in the water?** Hedgehogs live on the ground.
12. **Can you move like a hedgehog?** Show us how.

## OUR PRODUCTS ABOUT THE TOPIC HEDGEHOG

„Hedgehog Oscar“, hand-puppet Hedgehof and our dice game Mecki & Co.



# QUESTIONS ABOUT HEDGEHOGS



## Beginners

- 1. Why do hedgehogs sleep (hibernate) in the winter?**  
They can't find any food!
- 2. Can hedgehogs roll up into a ball?**  
Yes, they do it to protect themselves from their enemies!
- 3. When do hedgehogs get active and go out looking for food?**  
Mainly at dusk or at night!
- 4. When do hedgehogs eat to put on a layer of fat for their winter sleep?**  
In summer and autumn!
- 5. What happens to their heartbeat and breathing during hibernation?**  
Their heart beats more slowly and their breathing slows down, too!
- 6. Is the hedgehog a mammal?**  
Yes, hedgehogs are born as babies, and they get milk from their mother.
- 7. Have hedgehogs got a good or a poor sense of hearing?**  
Hedgehogs' sense of hearing is very good!
- 8. Have hedgehogs got a good or a poor sense of smell?**  
Hedgehogs' sense of smell is very good!
- 9. Can hedgehogs see well?**  
No, their eyesight is very poor!
- 10. What do hedgehogs like to eat?**  
Their favourite food is insects!
- 11. Where do hedgehogs sleep?**  
In leaf piles, hedges or among bushes!
- 12. What do hedgehogs do when they're eating?**  
Hedgehogs make lip-smacking noises when eating!
- 13. Are hedgehogs pack animals?**  
No, hedgehogs are loners!
- 14. What do hedgehogs do when they're in danger?**  
They roll into a ball and raise their spines!
- 15. What should we do with a hedgehog which is ill?**  
Poorly hedgehogs have to go to the vet!
- 16. What colour are hedgehogs?**  
Hedgehogs are mostly brown!
- 17. Do hedgehogs have spines on their face and tummy too?**  
No, only on their back!
- 18. How many paws do hedgehogs have?**  
Hedgehogs have 4 paws!



# QUESTIONS ABOUT HEDGEHOGS

Advanced



- 1. Do hedgehogs curl up when they are asleep?**  
No, they sleep uncurled!
- 2. How fast do hedgehogs move?**  
They can move at about 8 km/h, like a fast walking pace for people!
- 3. What direction do hedgehogs' front teeth (incisors) grow in?**  
They grow forwards, not upwards, they are used to pick up their food!
- 4. How old do hedgehogs get?**  
Most of them live between 2 and 4 years, some live to be 7!
- 5. Which of the hedgehog's senses are especially well developed and which are poorly developed?**  
Their sense of hearing and their sense of smell are especially good, and their sight is very poor!
- 6. What noises does a hedgehog make when it is in danger?**  
Hissing, grunting, growling or clicking!
- 7. Are hedgehogs a protected species?**  
Yes, hedgehogs are a protected species!
- 8. What birds and animals are the hedgehog's natural enemies?**  
The hawk, the fox, the badger and large owls (the eagle owl)!
- 9. Do hedgehogs have a long tail?**  
A hedgehog's tail is 2.5-3.5 cm long – as long as a pencil-sharpener!
- 10. Can hedgehogs swim?**  
Yes, they can swim, but they only do it only when it's really necessary!
- 11. What shape are hedgehogs' teeth?**  
Hedgehogs' teeth are pointed!
- 12. How long, and when, do hedgehogs sleep in winter?**  
They sleep (hibernate) for 5 months, from November to March!
- 13. Can hedgehog babies already see when they are born?**  
No, they are born blind!
- 14. How big do hedgehogs get?**  
They can grow to 22-30 cm, as long as a ruler!
- 15. What is something hedgehogs never eat?**  
Fruit and vegetables!
- 16. What do hedgehogs drink?**  
Only water, not milk!
- 17. What colour are hedgehogs' eyes?**  
Black!
- 18. How many toes do hedgehogs have on each paw?**  
5 toes, on each paw!



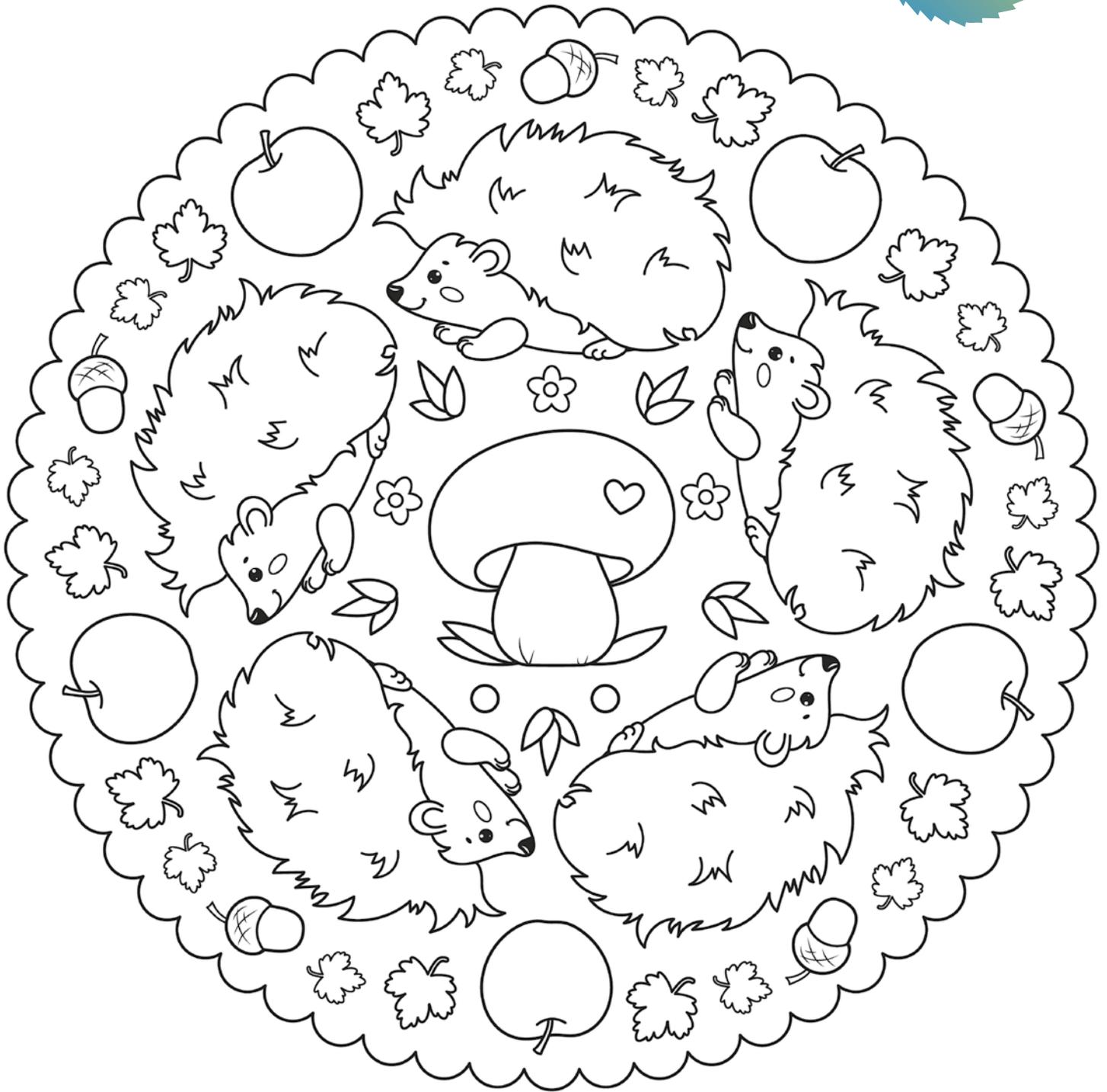
# CRAFTING FUN!

Go out into nature and collect natural materials! Chestnuts, leaves, rosehips and much more.. You can make creative hedgehog pictures by simply sticking the materials on a sheet of paper and creatively design a picture.

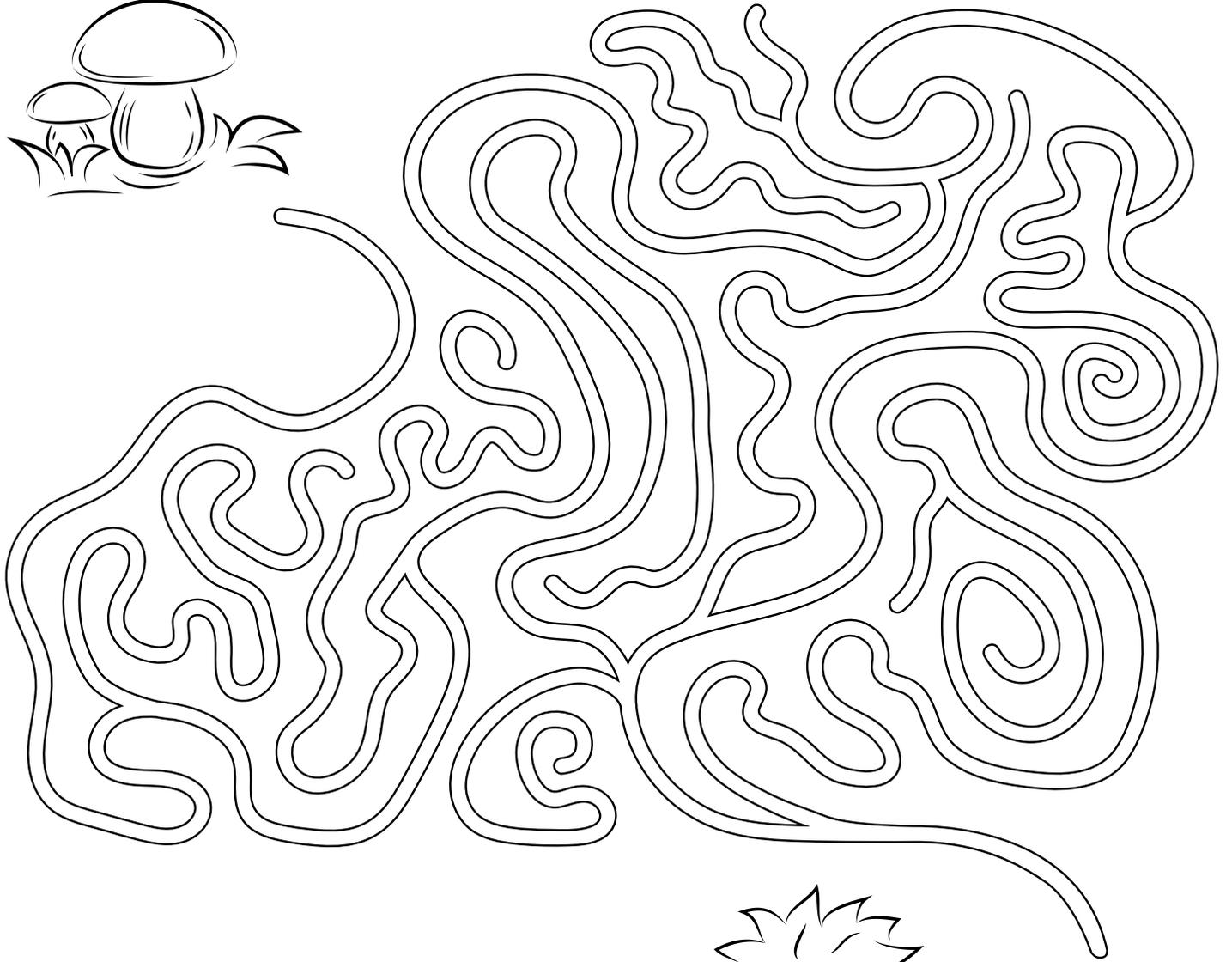
PROJECT WEEK  
Hedgehog



# COLOURING PICTURE



# PUZZLE / LABYRINTH



# HEDGEHOG STORIES



## Finger games for children

The children sit in a circle. The text is spoken together and the movements written here are performed. The movement ideas are suggestions that can be adapted depending on the composition of the group.

### FAMILY HEDGEHOG

Five fingers hast he mother hedgehog,  
*Show 5 fingers*

Pattering through the grass.  
*Walking with your fingers*

The mother says „Soon there will be a cold winter storm“  
*Blow hard*

Now every child eats his fill  
*Both hands show a big belly*

We build a winter nest  
*Show a nest with your hands*

we sleep in it very deeply and soundly.  
*Bring both hands together, place them against the cheek and close the eyes*

When the sun is up on the sky  
*Show a big sun with your hands)*

And there´s a gently spring wind  
*Blowing softly*

All hedgehogs come out of their winter house in the world.  
*Walking with your fingers*

### SUNDAY TRIP WITH THE HEDGEHOG FAMILY

On Sunday morning the hedgehog family goes on a sailboat trip.  
*Form hands into a bowl (boat), let the bowl move back and forth.*

And the little ones shout with joy because the boat swings like this.  
*Let the boat swing back and forth*

Not that much says mother hedgehog. You don´t have wings  
*Pointing with your finger*

If you fall into the water  
It will be wet and cold!

*Hold your arms crossed in front of your chest and rub your upper arms as if you were cold.*



# HEDGEHOG STORY

## Children's massage with the hedgehog ball

The story is told to the children. They perform the movements with the ball freely.



### THE LITTLE HEDGEHOG PIECKS

It is autumn and Piecks the hedgehog is walking through the garden. He is hungry and looking for treats.

*Roll the ball around the room with your foot. The foot should always be placed on the ball and roll forwards with the foot and then with the other foot.*

Piecks looks under the leaves on the floor and discovers a big earthworm. Mmhh delicious, he smacks loudly while eating.

*Stop at one point, leave the foot on the ball. Smacking.*

Piecks discovers an apple behind a stone. He walks around the apple until he finds a place where he can take a good bite.

*Roll the ball around an imaginary apple with his foot.*

When Piecks is full, he runs back and forth in the garden, looking for a place for his hibernation.

*The ball is rolled faster around the room.*

He comes to a small bush and stops. He looks very carefully to see if the leaves are dry.

*Stand still and roll the ball gently back and forth under the sole of your foot.*

Then Piecks crawls into the pile of leaves, snuggles down and falls fast asleep.

*Roll the ball away from the foot and let it stand still.*

*Then the roles are swapped and the other child is massaged with the ball.*

