



**Devon**

# Watch Out For Wildlife

## HIBERNATION



*Feed me in autumn – I need to get ready for my long winter sleep*

Winter is a time when wildlife has to adjust to shorter days and colder weather. Some animals like hedgehogs hibernate to survive the cold. They go into a deep sleep and their body temperature and heart rate drops to save energy. Hedgehogs are insectivorous mammals. They feed on beetles, snails and slugs that come out at night, so when this prey gets scarce in autumn, hedgehogs must get ready to hibernate.

### *Did You Know – Hedgehog Fact File?*

- ❖ The largest hedgehog ever was over 2 kg!
- ❖ DON'T feed them bread and milk
- ❖ They need fresh water to drink
- ❖ You can put out pet food for hedgehogs - but not fish
- ❖ About half baby hedgehogs will not get through their first winter
- ❖ Hedgehogs must weigh at least 450g before hibernating
- ❖ Hibernating hedgehogs may wake up every 7-10 days during hibernation



***Remember! Check your bonfire thoroughly for Hedgehogs before you light it on November 5<sup>th</sup> !***

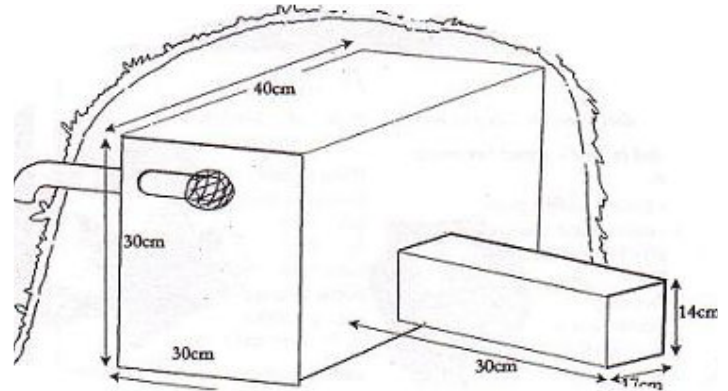


# Make a hedgehog den!

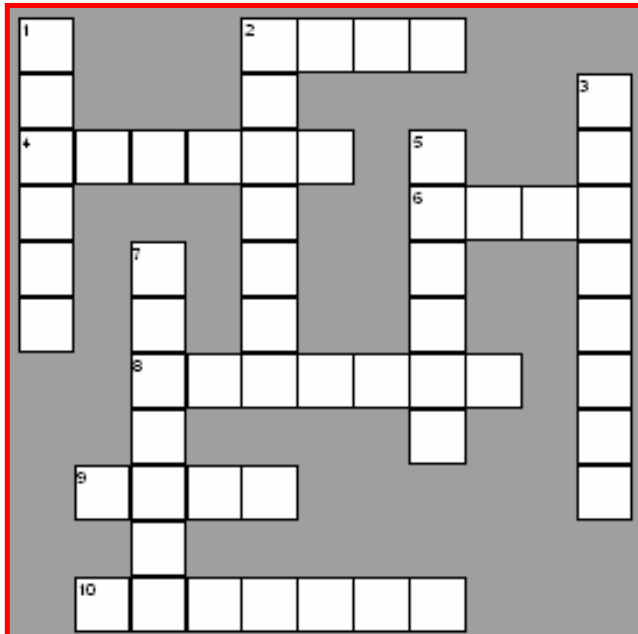
Ask a grown up for some help to build a cosy hedgehog den like this one. Put a ventilation tube near the top with its outer end pointing downwards, and the inside end covered with mesh.

Or you could simply use a rainproof upturned box with one side cut away. Put your den under a pile of logs, twigs and dead leaves in a quiet corner with the entrance poking out.

Sprinkle sawdust or earth on the floor and put leaves in for bedding.



## Hibernation Crossword



### CLUES

#### ACROSS

2. Opposite of hot (4)
4. Season when leaves fall from trees (6)
6. Watery home for wildlife (4)
8. Stinging plant that's a good insect home(7)
9. Don't feed a hedgehog this! (4)
10. Hedgehogs eat these (7)

#### DOWN

1. These make a good hedgehog bed (6)
2. Made in a bin with garden waste (7)
3. Prickly animal (8)
5. Weaves a web to catch flies (6)
7. Check this before you light it! (7)

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Answers Across: 2 Cold 4 Autumn 6 Pond 8 Nettles 9 Milk 10 Beetles Down: 1 Leaves 2 Compost 3 Hedgehog 5 Spider 7 Bonfire

For more information on building homes for the creatures in your garden visit:

<http://www.devonwildlifetrust.org/index.php?section=people:gardens>

and go to CREATURE FEATURES