

# Make a clay hedgehog

During the winter months, hedgehogs, dormice and bats go into hibernation in the UK. This means they find somewhere warm and cosy to sleep when the cold weather comes. At Kew Gardens, the Natural Area is a haven for wildlife, providing hibernating hedgehogs with piles of leaves and logs to shelter in. Hunt for natural items outside to make your very own hedgehog.

## You will need:



A collecting bag



A selection of textured natural items e.g. pine cones or beechnut shells



Air-drying clay or plasticine

**1** As a family, go for a walk in your local woodland or park, or visit Kew Gardens and/or Wakehurst. Think about what a hedgehog looks like. Search for and collect fallen natural items that could look like a hedgehog's spikes.

What plant or tree have they come from? Are they leaves, seed cases, or maybe the seeds themselves?

**! Remember:** Take care when handling prickly items.

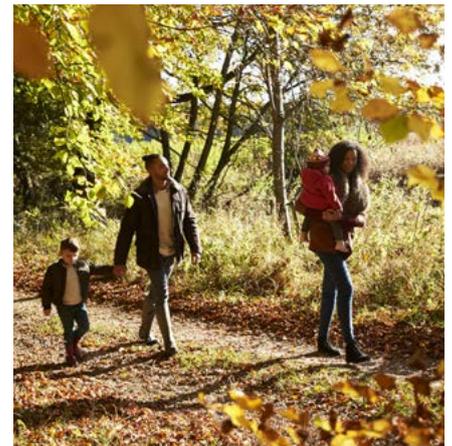
**2** When you get home, it's time to start making your hedgehog. Use the clay or plasticine to mould a plump round body and a cone-shaped face. Or you could use a pine cone for the hedgehog's spikes and stick the face onto the narrower end.

**☆ Top tip:** Think about why hedgehogs look the way they do, with prickly spines and snout-like noses.

**3** Now let your imagination take over! Carefully stick your natural items into the body of the hedgehog until it's covered all over.

Maybe you could make your hedgehog a home with piles of leaves and twigs.

**Share your photos @kewgardens.**



## Taking it forwards:

Research some other woodland animals that live at Kew Gardens and/or Wakehurst. How do they differ from each other? How do they stay warm in the winter? Have a go at making them out of clay and collected items too.