

Cute! Baby hedgehogs are called hoglets or piglets.



Precious but Prickly

IN THE US, we often see hedgehogs as pets. But in other parts of the world, hedgehogs run wild. In Ireland, for example, it's a common sight to spot one scurrying through a garden.

In the wild, European hedgehogs prefer to live in the woods or grassy areas. But they are also often found in human-made habitats like farms, parks, and gardens. In Europe, some gardeners even build nests or cozy boxes to attract hedgehogs, because hedgehogs snack on pests—like snails, slugs, caterpillars, and beetles—that can destroy plants.

Hedgehogs are mostly nocturnal (active at night). Since their eyesight is poor, they use their excellent senses of smell and hearing to hunt and find their way around.

Hedgehogs are covered in more than 5,000 spines all over their body, except for their face, legs, tail, and belly. Sometimes, the spines fall off, and new ones grow—just like you lose and regrow hair! When hedgehogs feel scared, they roll into a spiky ball to keep their soft stomachs safe from predators.

Hedgehogs are immune to some poisonous plants. After munching on the plant, they spread saliva filled with the plant's poison onto their spines. Scientists think this tricky tactic might hide the hedgehog's scent from hungry predators. It also might give the hedgehog an extra layer of protection when it is being hunted.

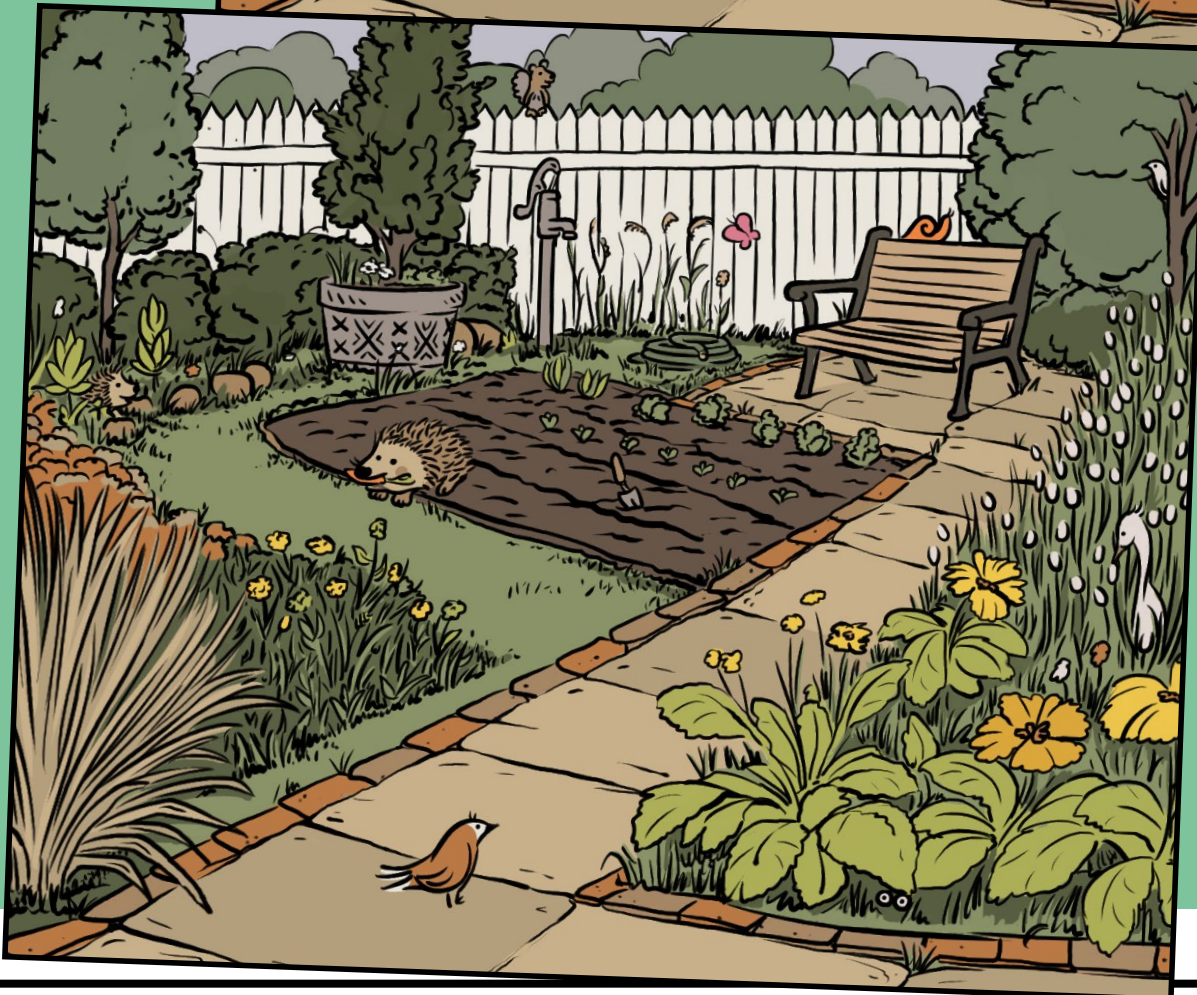
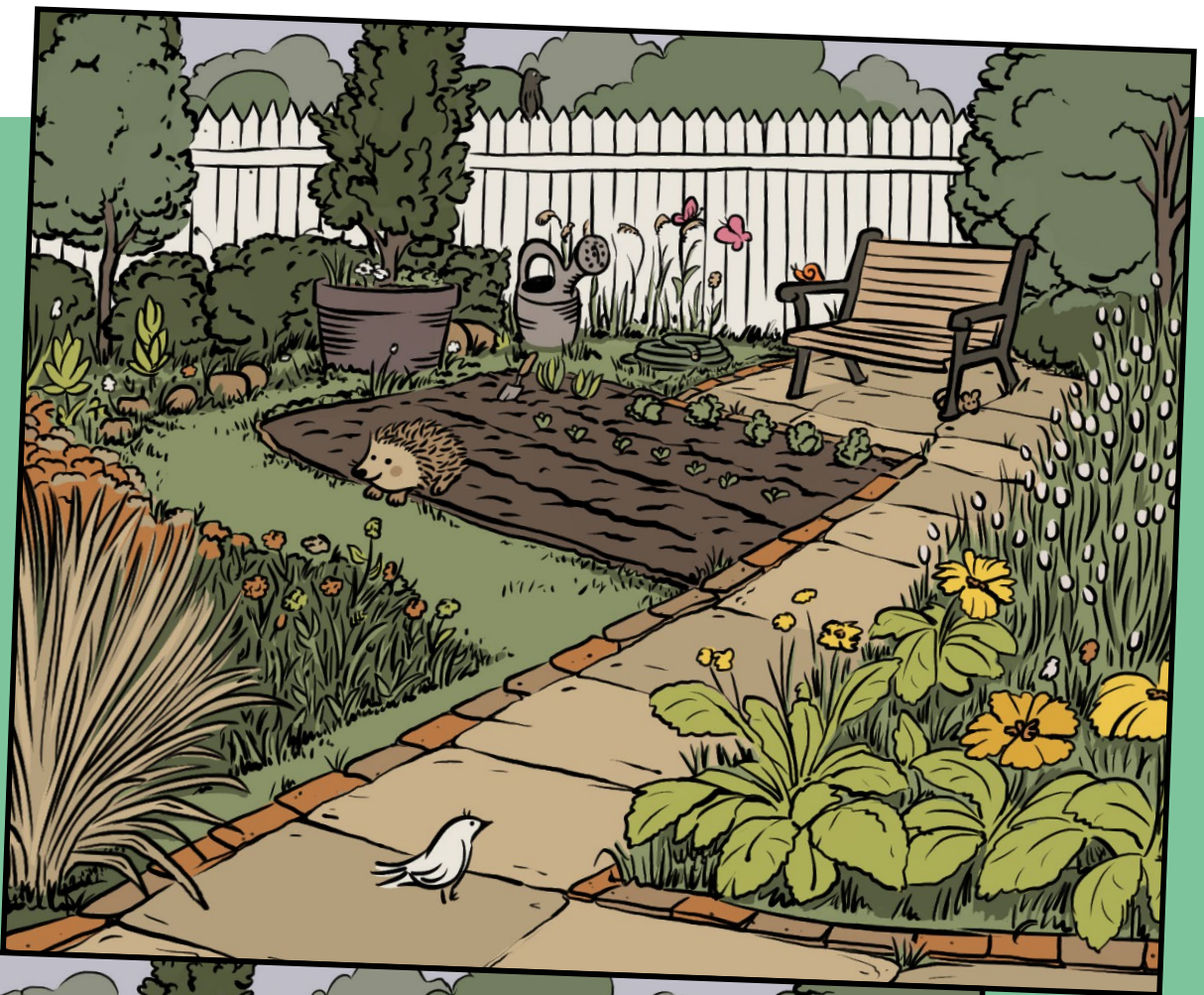
Before Adam and Eve disobeyed God, animals did not hunt each other for food, so hedgehogs wouldn't have needed their spines to stay safe. But even in a fallen world, animals display the creativity and care of their Creator. It may be prickly, but the adorable hedgehog has the defense system it needs to survive!



I'm **Peter Schriemer**! As a wildlife educator and TV host, I get excited about tracking down God's creatures! Join my adventures on my Answers TV show *Hike & Seek*.

What changed?

Can you find all 14 differences in this backyard?

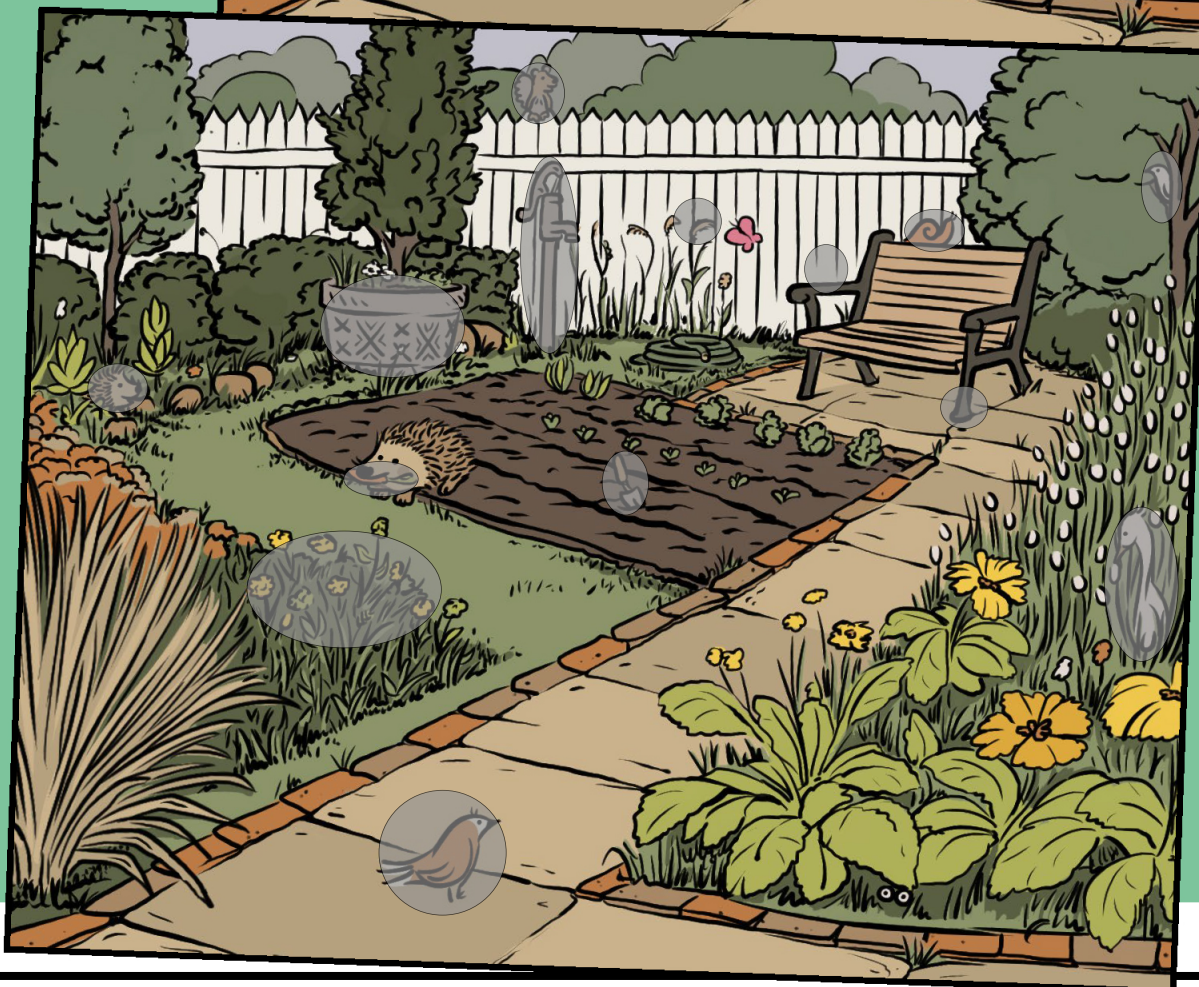
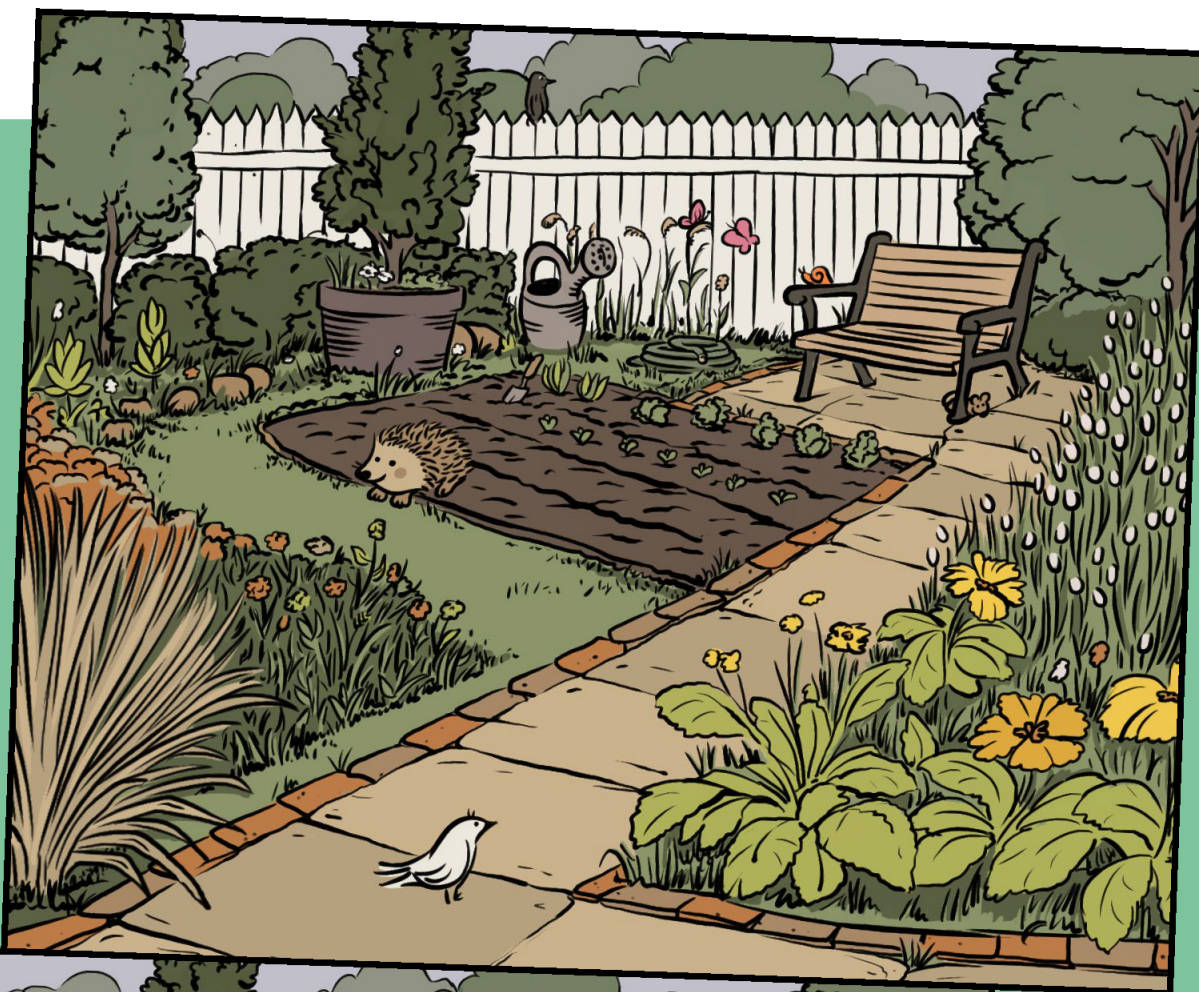


Did you know?

Adult hedgehogs squeal and grunt like a pig when they are scared or excited. This is where their name comes from.

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