

# Pine needle hedgehogs

What you need:  
(for the playdough)

- 125g plain flour
- 125g fine salt
- 30ml warm water
- Pine needles or thin sticks

Have a go at colouring this spring colouring sheet on page 3...What do you think the woodland will feel like?



## Step 1

Add the flour and salt to a bowl and mix. Slowly add the warm water, mixing it all together at the same time.



## Step 2

Once you have finished mixing, lightly flour a surface and knead until smooth and elastic. This may take 5-10 minutes.



## Step 3

Roll the salt dough into a ball and pinch the front of it to make a nose and poke in some eyes with a pencil.



## Step 4

Poke the pine needles or sticks into the salt dough all over the body to give your hedgehog prickles and allow it to air dry.



You could use mud or clay instead.



# Touch facts

Touch is important to a lot of animals. It can provide information about their surroundings in the dark or help them to communicate silently to each other to avoid predators! For some animals touch is an important aspect in forming social bonds.



Hawthorn and blackthorn trees defend themselves by using texture, they grow sharp thorns that are painful for animals to eat.

Holly trees use prickly leaves as a tactile defence. The leaves will be most prickly low down at the height of browsing animals such as deer. Look higher in a holly and the leaves will have fewer prickles.



Butterflies and moths have hairs over their entire body and antennae. This helps them feel the world and gives information about the wind for flying.



Touch is important for birds when flying. Information about wind speed temperature and air pressure is passed down feathers to nerves in the skin.



Moles find food and are warned of danger by thousands of touch sensitive hairs on its face, feet and tail. They detect vibrations in the tunnel.

Spiders are hyper-sensitive to touch. They have lots of hairs on their legs that detect vibrations. They arrange their legs on different parts of the web to pinpoint the location of food.



Hedgehogs have around 5,000 – 7,000 spines on their back and are fringed by long guard hairs used for touch.

Rabbits have whiskers that are as long as their body is wide. It helps them to measure the width of openings and tunnels.

A foxes whiskers and sensitive hairs might help it build images of surroundings because the part of their brain that processes touch is similar in structure to the one for sight.

