

Edheads' STEM Mysteries: Decreasing Hedgehogs Student Worksheet

Mystery: Why are the hedgehogs disappearing?

1. How would an ecologist be useful for solving this mystery? (How does what an ecologist study relate to this mystery?)

Use the information to answer questions 2 - 7.

Research:

2. Go through each of the pieces of data and summarize what you, the ecologist, can learn from it.

Information Type	Summary
Air Pollution	
Fencing	
Hedgehogs as Pets	
Predation through Pets	

Roadkill	
Vegetation Loss	
Weather Changes	

Analyze:

3. What resources appear to be less available to hedgehogs now than 20 years ago? What has been introduced that has had negative impacts on the hedgehogs?

4. List below which pieces of information seem to impact the hedgehog population and why.

Peer Feedback:

5. STEM professionals rarely work by themselves. Discuss with a partner your answer to question 5 and summarize what they shared with you.

--

6. What changes, if any, would you make to your answer in question 5?

--

Claim-Evidence-Reason:

7. Why are the hedgehogs disappearing?

- a. Claim: Write one or two sentences to answer this question.
- b. Evidence: List the pieces of information that support your answer.
- c. Reason: Explain how the pieces of information would lead an ecologist to make the claim.

Claim	
Evidence	

Reason	
--------	--

Conclusions and Next Steps:

9. How might an ecologist work to mitigate (solve) the problem of fewer hedgehogs? You may use research to answer this question.

--