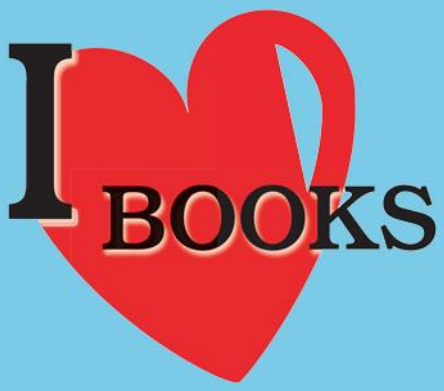


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Opening extract from

The National Trust: Hedgehogs, Hares and Other British Animals

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In the garden

Lots of animals live in people's gardens. Badgers and moles like large lawns where they can dig for juicy earthworms. But moles often get in trouble for their messy molehills . . .

Some animals, like hedgehogs and foxes, will live in smaller gardens, and even sleep under garden sheds! Gardeners love hedgehogs because they eat a lot of slugs.

Stick some slugs along the wavy trails. Then add foxes to the scene.

Can you place a mole sticker at the top of each molehill?

Making a home

Out in the forest, the animals are making their homes ready for spring. Everything has to be finished before their babies are born.

The badgers use their sharp claws to build new rooms in their home, called a sett. It has bedrooms, a nursery and even a toilet!

Use the stickers to add more badgers to this sett.

Next door, a rabbit lines her nest with grass and fur to keep her babies warm. A baby rabbit is called a 'kitten'. There are lots of tunnels in and out of the rabbit warren.

Can you fill the warren with more rabbits?

Baby animals

It's spring in the woods and the animals are caring for their babies. There's so much to do – finding food, looking after the nests and keeping count of all those little ones!

Some babies have patterned fur to help them stay hidden. Fawns and wild boar piglets are difficult to spot against the forest floor. Can you see any?

Other babies, like squirrels and hedgehogs, stay in their nests until they are almost grown up. Did you know that baby hedgehogs are called 'hoglets'?

Can you match all of the baby animal stickers with their mothers?

Messing about on the river

The river is a great place to find food and drink, and is home to lots of animals. Otters spend much of their lives hunting and playing in the water – they are excellent swimmers!

Water voles nibble on grasses along the river's edge, while tiny water shrews hunt their prey underwater. They are only small but they catch insects, tadpoles and even fish!

Use the stickers to fill this scene with lots of detail.

Can you add an otter chasing after the fish in this river?

After dark

Nocturnal mammals, like bats, foxes and badgers, mostly come out at night. They have excellent night vision, or use their other senses to help them find their way in the dark.

Bats have huge ears to listen for the echoes made by their high-pitched squeaks. These tell them where insects and other objects are around them.

Use stickers to fill the sky with flying bats.

Badgers and foxes sniff out their prey, while hedgehogs listen carefully for danger. If a hedgehog hears a larger animal, it will curl into a tight, prickly ball!

Can you add more hedgehogs to this scene?

Checklist

Here's a checklist of the mammals in this book, along with their names and a space for you to write down when you've seen each one. Can you spot them all?



Rabbit ☐

Date.....



Hare ☐

Date.....



Red squirrel ☐

Date.....



Harvest mouse ☐

Date.....



Dormouse ☐

Date.....



Brown rat ☐

Date.....



Water vole ☐

Date.....



Beaver ☐

Date.....



Common shrew ☐

Date.....



Water shrew ☐

Date.....



Eurasian otter ☐

Date.....



Mole ☐

Date.....



Hedgehog ☐

Date.....



Pipistrelle bat ☐

Date.....