

Ssssssssssssssh!

It's winter and often animals are sleeping or hibernating - it's the best way to avoid the cold weather. At the National Museum of Ireland - Natural History there are a few animals on display that do not like to be woken up during winter. Look at this image of a curled up hedgehog that you can see on display on the ground floor of the Irish Room.



Hedgehog curled up in a ball for protection



Hedgehog's can have more than 5,000 spines, which are made of keratin the same material as your fingernails!

Wonders of Winter

Sleepyhead hog!

Hedgehog hibernation begins once it gets cold outside, usually between November and March. Hedgehogs don't really sleep but instead drop their body temperature to match their surroundings and slow their heartbeat to at least 12 beats per minute. By doing this, hedgehogs save energy until winter is over and they can once again search for food. Do you think your heart beats less or more than a hibernating hedgehog?

Wonders of Winter Word Search

Now's your chance to spot some wonders of winter for yourself! Find the different winter nature terms in the word search below:



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| O | L | K | E | R | A | T | I | N |
| C | H | I | B | N | E | S | T | R |
| P | I | E | L | A | S | N | O | W |
| G | B | Y | D | R | D | Y | I | S |
| S | E | S | L | G | H | G | M | B |
| P | R | N | E | S | E | M | E | I |
| I | N | A | N | L | O | H | C | R |
| N | A | I | E | U | C | L | O | D |
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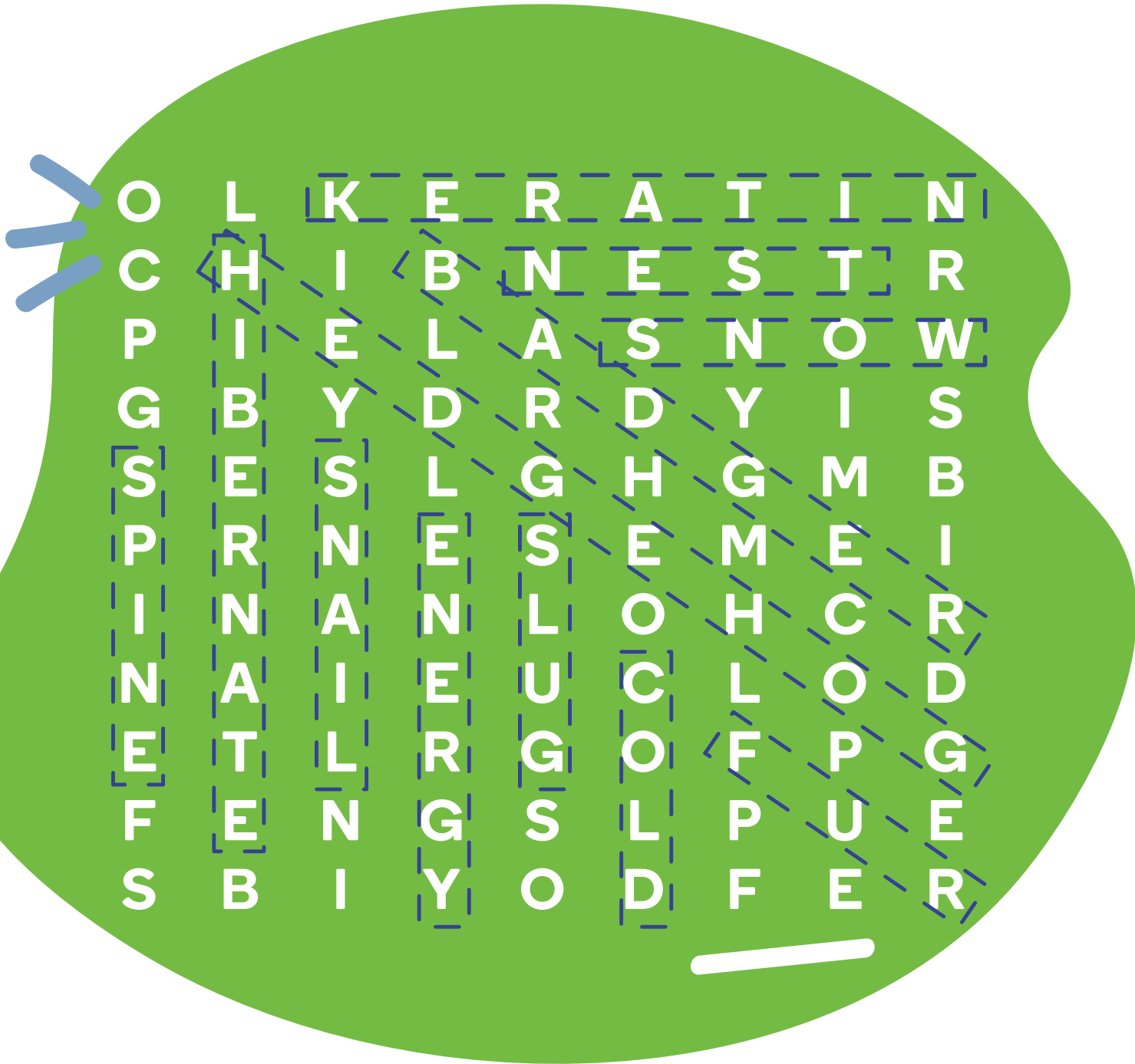
Hibernate Cold Snow Hedgehog Spine
Badger Snail Fur Keratin Energy
Nest Slug

Here's a tip!

Search horizontally, vertically and diagonally and even backwards for all 12 words, put your skills to the test and see how many you can find! Don't forget to check your answers on the next page.

Here are the answers!

How did you get on? Did you manage to find all 12 words?



Little hedgehog, big beats!

The normal resting heart rate for a human adult's heartbeat ranges from 60 to 100 beats per minute. During warmer temperatures, a sleeping hedgehog's heartbeat can be as high as 147 beats per minute!

We hope to see you soon!

A visit to the National Museum of Ireland - Natural History is FREE. Next time you are at the Museum, don't forget to give a wave to the hedgehogs on display in the Irish Room!

museum

National Museum of Ireland
Ard-Mhúsaem na hÉireann