



# SONIC

## THE HEDGEHOG

Hedgehog facts you never knew!

### It's Nearly Impossible to Unroll a Curled-Up Hedgehog

If you come across a hedgehog that's rolled into a tight ball, leave it be. It's virtually impossible to unroll one, anyway. When a hedgehog feels relaxed and unthreatened, he'll unroll on his own.

### Baby Hedgehogs Are Called Hoglets

Hoglets remain with their mothers for just four to seven weeks. After that, the animals are largely solitary. Their lifespan is about 7 to 10 years.

### Groundhog Day Used to Be Hedgehog Day

In fact, the tradition of using hedgehogs to predict when spring would arrive started in Germany. When German settlers arrived in Pennsylvania, there were no hedgehogs around so they had to settle for groundhogs.

### Hedgehogs Like to Make Spitballs

Hedgehogs have a tendency to lick new scents and then form a similarly scented spit ball that they use to coat their spines. It's thought this may be a way for the animals to take on a new scent, thereby "camouflaging" themselves from predators' sharp noses. They also use this spit-ball process to spread saliva with plant poison (to which they're immune) over their spikes, offering them even more protection against predators.

### Hedgehogs Are Primarily Nocturnal

Some hedgehog owners learned the hard way that these creatures like to run, search for food and play at night, while you're probably trying to sleep. Their activity levels also depend on their climate. In cold weather, wild hedgehogs hibernate, and in hot climates they aestivate (similar to hibernation but during hot, dry spells). If they live in temperate regions, hedgehogs will stay active year-round.

### Hedgehogs Make a Wide Variety of Noises

It's often thought that hedgehogs are silent creatures, but this is a myth. They may grunt, squeal, snort and snuffle, as well as click or hiss. When they're happy and content, hedgehogs purr or whistle.

Source: <https://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2017/09/19/hedgehogs.aspx>



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### First Appearances

Sonic first appeared in a video game called *Rad Mobile* as an ornament hanging on the rear-view mirror of a car. Sonic was also the first video game character to be represented in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade!

### What's in a Name?

Sonic's name was originally Mr. Needlemouse! His name was changed to Sonic because the word represents speed, which is the main focus of the game design. There is also a genome called "Sonic hedgehog" that was named after Sonic the Hedgehog!

### Inspirations

Sonic is blue in color because the Sega logo is blue and his shoes are red because Santa Clause wears red, and he is one of the most recognizable characters in the world! Dr. Eggman's design was inspired by none other than President Theodore Roosevelt and Humpty Dumpty. The aesthetics of Green Hill Zone are based on the geography of California.

### Sonic in a Band

The first Sonic game featured Sonic in a band! The sound test was scrapped when it took up too much space. It was ultimately replaced with the Sega Chant at the beginning of the game, which takes up 1/8<sup>th</sup> of the memory on the cartridge.

### It's All Up From Here

There are only six Chaos Emeralds in the first game. *Sonic 2* increased the number to seven, and that has been the standard ever since (with a few exceptions). The first game is also the only Classic Sonic game in the main series to not have the final boss battle take place in space!

### Sink or Swim

Sonic cannot swim because Yuji Naka mistakenly thought hedgehogs could not swim!



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