

Harry Hedgehog Gets a Job!

Essential Question:

What role does a hedgehog have in a ecosystem?

Background Information: *see Background Information for Garden Earth – Pest and Disease Control Department*

Getting Ready:

Make the necessary puppets using the provided templates or design your own.

Two puppeteers will be needed for this puppet show. One Puppeteer will play Harry Hedgehog and Ms. Mantis while the other plays all of the other puppets.

Procedure:

1. Assemble the students in front of the puppet theater. Tell the students that they are going to visit with Harry Hedgehog. He is looking for a job, but many of the department managers do not find him helpful.
2. Perform the puppet show.

Discussion/Assessment:

Ask the students to summarize what they learned.

What was Harry Hedgehog's talent?

What is the importance of the Pest and Disease Control Department?

Discuss the term niche as an organism's place and job in an ecosystem.

Location: Puppet theater

Objectives: *Learners will:*

- 1) explain that all creatures have an important job in the ecosystem
- 2) be introduced to the work of the Pest and Disease Control Department

Skills: communication, listening, empathy, analysis

Supplies:

- **Script:** *Harry Hedgehog gets a job*
- **Puppets**
 - Harry Hedgehog
 - Buzzy Bee
 - Beatrice Butterfly
 - Oli Earthworm
 - Mrs. Mantis
 - Miranda Mushroom

Subjects: language arts, science

Time: 15 minutes

Harry Hedgehog Gets a Job

(Buzzy Bee and Beatrice Butterfly are having a discussion on stage, Harry Hedgehog is rooting around and looking sad at the corner of the stage. Miranda Mushroom is propped in the other corner of the stage).

Buzzy Bee: Oh, look, Beatrice, there's Harry Hedgehog. He's such a messy creature. Let's go the other way.

Beatrice Butterfly: He looks sad. I think we should at least say hello.

Buzzy: Oh, all right.

Beatrice: Hi, Harry. What's up this beautiful morning?

Harry: (looking sleepy) Hello, Beatrice, Buzzy. Nothing. Just headed back to the old hedgerow to get some sleep.

Buzzy: We're on our way to work - lots of pollinating to do today.

Harry: You guys are lucky. Having jobs, I mean. Wish I had one.

Beatrice: Why, Harry, I'm sure you can find work somewhere in the ecosystem.

Harry: Yeah, right.

Buzzy: Look, Harry, we've got to fly. If we don't hurry, the hummingbirds will get the best flowers.

Beatrice: Yes, and Suga Magnolia, our Pollination Department Manager, is depending on us. *(Beatrice and Buzzy exit)*

Harry: OK. Catch you later. Jobs! Suga Magnolia depending on them. Some creatures have all the luck. *(Moves toward Miranda Mushroom and pounces on insect.)*

Oli: *(below ground)* Miranda, Miranda Mushroom, what's going on up there?

Miranda: No problem, Oli. It's just Harry Hedgehog. He's looking for insects. Guess you heard him pouncing on a grasshopper.

Oli: That figures. I'm trying to concentrate on making soil, and somebody is shaking the ground.

Miranda: Oli, I know Harry disturbs you, but he looks really sad. I feel kinda sorry for him.

Oli: Well, maybe I shouldn't be too hard on him. I'll just pop up and say hello.

Miranda: Good idea, Oli. Harry wait up. Oli's coming up. He wants to talk with you.

Oli: (*popping up above ground*) Harry, you old Hedgehog, what's **up**?

Harry: Hello, Oli, I'm just catching a quick snack before I go to bed. (*smacks his lips as he eats an insect*) Delicious. What's **down** with you?

Oli: Things are great **down** in my Soil Department. Say, Harry about that job in the Soil Department. I really don't have any openings right now, and I'm not sure how you'd fit in my department. I'm really sorry.

Harry: (*sadly*) That's OK, Oli. I'm getting used to that answer.

Miranda: What do you mean, Harry?

Harry: I've applied to just about every department in Foreco's ecosystem. Nobody wants me.

Oli: Where have you applied?

Harry: Well, first I went to Suga Magnolia. She said I'm too big and heavy to work in the Pollination Department. She said I'd smush the flowers, if I tried to get pollen. Just as well, I guess. I hate nectar. But I love grasshoppers! (*Catches another one and smacks his lips.*)

Oli: I guess Suga has a point.

Harry: Then I checked in at the Water Purification Department. No openings, according to Mr. Dipper. Over in the Food Production Department, Madame Squirrel said I eat too much. I'm just a failure. (*sobs*)

Miranda: Oh, Harry, don't say that. Everybody fits into the ecosystem somewhere. You just have to find your niche.

Harry: Yeah, everybody but me.

Oli: Did you try the Climate Department?

Harry: That was embarrassing. Sol just laughed and ducked behind a cloud. Then Mrs. Dungie came along. As soon as she saw me, she said you and she work together, Oli, and if you couldn't hire me, she couldn't either. I even spoke to Pandy. I now he's pretty careful about having beautiful things in the Aesthetics Department.

Miranda: That's true.

Harry: Well, my mother says I'm a beautiful hedgehog. What about it, boys and girls? Am I a handsome dude, or what?

Oli: Harry, somehow I can't quite see you in Aesthetics. You're the rugged, rough, tough type.

Harry: You're just being nice to me, Oli.

Oli: Have you tried Dr. Arrow? With his huge Warehouse I'm sure he'd have a spot for you.

Harry: Dr. Arrow said I'm too messy. He was afraid I didn't understand how complicated his Warehouse is. Said I might contaminate some of his plants and animals. That made me feel real bad.

Oli: I guess so.

Miranda: Harry, you are having a rough time.

Oli: Why didn't I think of it sooner? I have just the place for you.

Harry: You do. Where?

Oli: Mrs. Mantis' Pest and Disease Control Department! You're a terrific predator when it comes to insects. You gobble up tons of them.

Harry: I can eat a mess of insects. Any more around here? Oh, look, a beetle. (*Crunch*) Tastes great. (*Smack*)

Oli: Aw, Harry, you should ask her. I'll bet she'll give you a try.

Mrs. Mantis: (*sternly*) Oli, Miranda. Work slow in the Soil Department today?

Oli: Hello, Mrs. Mantis. No, we have lots of work, but we took a break to help old Harry here.

Mrs. Mantis: Indeed. You there, Harry. Can't speak for yourself.

Harry: (*nervous*) Yes, ma'am, Mrs. Mantis. I wonder – that is – um, would you?

Mrs. Mantis: Oh, speak up, Harry. Stop mumbling. Say what you have to say.

Harry: All right. MMMrs. MMMantis, I need a job. I'd like to work for you in the Pest and Disease Control Department.

Mrs. Mantis: I see, and what are your qualifications?

Harry: I catch and eat lots of insects. They're good. (*Smacks his lips*)

Mrs. Mantis: Save your personal opinions. Are you interested in the day or night shift?

Harry: Huh? Oh, night shift, definitely night shift. Mama says I'm nocturnal, because I sleep in the day and stay up at night.

Mrs. Mantis: I know what nocturnal means, Harry. If I give you a chance, will you report to work on time at sunset every day? There are lots of insects out at that time.

Harry: Yes, ma'am. I'll be there. I'll be a good worker. Thanks. You'll see. I love insects. (*smacks his lips on another insect*)

Mrs. Mantis: I've got a swarm of flies to check on. You start tonight, right Harry. Don't be late.

Harry: No, ma'am. Oli, I've got to go to bed so I can get up early tonight.

Oli: OK, Harry. Glad you got the job.

Miranda: See you later, Harry.

Harry: I've got a job with the P and DC Department – the Pest and Disease Control Department. Just one more little snack before I turn in. A juicy caterpillar. Um, good. (*smacks his lips*) Hey, kids, there is a place for me in the old ecosystem after all.