The Hedge Hog Chestnut
A Seedling Activity To Do With An American Chestnut Tree

Did you know that...
Native wildlife from birds to bears, squirrels to deer, depended on the tree's abundant crops of nutritious nuts. The chestnut was a central part of eastern rural economies. As winter came, attics were often stacked to the rafters with flour bags full of the glossy, dark brown nuts. Springhouses and smokehouses were hung with hams and other products from livestock that had fattened on the harvest gleanings. And what wasn't consumed was sold. Chestnut was an important cash crop for many Appalachian families. As the year-end holidays approached, nuts by the railroad car-full were shipped to New York and Philadelphia and other big cities where street vendors sold them fresh-roasted.

Materials:
- Hedgie’s Surprise by: Jan Brett
- One Chestnut still in its spiky casing
- Four black mini pompoms
- Two small sized googly eyes
- Glue

Seedling Activity:
- Begin by reading the book Hedgie’s Surprise
- First you need to find a chestnut that still has its shell
- Then glue the four pompoms to the flattest side of the chestnut. (These are the hedgehog’s legs.
- Now, glue the eyes to the front of the chestnut.
You now have your very own hedgehog friend!