

Name _____



All About Squirrels

Squirrels are fascinating creatures that you can find all over the world. These small mammals are part of the rodent family, which also includes animals like mice and beavers. Squirrels come in many shapes and sizes, but most of them have bushy tails, sharp claws, and large eyes that help them see well in the trees.

Squirrels are known for their incredible climbing skills. They use their sharp claws to grip tree bark as they scurry up and down trunks. Their bushy tails are not just for decoration—they help squirrels balance as they leap from branch to branch. Did you know that some squirrels can even glide through the air? Flying squirrels, a special kind of squirrel, use a flap of skin between their legs to glide from tree to tree.

Food is very important to squirrels. They eat a variety of foods, including nuts, seeds, fruits, and even small insects. One of the most famous things squirrels do is gather and store food for the winter. They bury nuts and seeds in the ground to make sure they have enough to eat when it's cold. Sometimes, they forget where they hid their food, and those buried seeds can grow into new plants!

Squirrels are also quite clever. They are known for their problem-solving skills, like figuring out how to reach bird feeders or escape from predators. Speaking of predators, squirrels must stay alert because animals like hawks, owls, and snakes might try to catch them. Their quick movements and sharp senses help them stay safe.

Squirrels play an important role in nature. By hiding seeds and forgetting about some of them, they help new trees and plants grow. So, the next time you see a squirrel, take a moment to watch it. You might be surprised by how busy and smart these little animals are!