

Name _____

Where Does a Squirrel Live?



Squirrels are found in many places all over the world. These clever animals live in habitats that provide food, shelter, and trees to climb. Most squirrels prefer forests because they are full of tall trees that offer plenty of room to climb, hide, and find food. Forests also provide protection from predators like hawks and snakes. You can find squirrels in many types of forests, from the chilly woodlands of North America to the warm rainforests of South America.

While forests are a favorite home for squirrels, they can also live in other habitats. For example, some squirrels live in parks and backyards in cities or towns. These urban squirrels have adapted to live near humans and often eat from bird feeders or scraps of food left behind. Other squirrels, like the ground squirrel, live in grasslands or open areas. These squirrels dig burrows in the ground where they can sleep and hide from predators.

Squirrels are found on almost every continent except Antarctica and Australia. In North America, gray squirrels and red squirrels are very common. In Asia, you can find the Indian giant squirrel, which has bright, colorful fur. Africa is home to many unique squirrel species, like the tiny African pygmy squirrel. Even in Europe, squirrels can be found living in forests and parks.

A squirrel's choice of home depends on what it needs to survive. Tree squirrels spend most of their time in trees, building nests out of leaves and twigs. These nests, called dreys, are often tucked high up in the branches for safety. On the other hand, ground squirrels dig tunnels to create underground homes. Flying squirrels, which can glide from tree to tree, need forests with lots of tall trees.

No matter where squirrels live, they play an important role in their habitat. They help spread seeds by burying nuts, which can grow into new trees. So, whether in a park, a forest, or a grassy field, squirrels are always busy finding food, building homes, and helping their environment.