

Name _____

What Are Squirrels' Daily Habits and Behaviors?



Squirrels are active, energetic creatures with interesting daily habits. Most squirrels are diurnal, which means they are active during the day and rest at night. In the early morning and late afternoon, squirrels are especially busy searching for food. During the middle of the day, they often take a break, finding a safe place to rest.

Squirrels spend much of their time gathering food, climbing trees, and watching out for predators. They have sharp eyesight and excellent hearing, which helps them stay alert to danger. When a squirrel senses a threat, it may freeze, chatter loudly, or flick its bushy tail as a warning to other squirrels. These behaviors help them survive in the wild.

Squirrels are mostly solitary animals, which means they live alone. However, they do interact with others, especially during mating season or when raising their young. Mother squirrels take care of their babies, called kits, until they are old enough to live on their own. Sometimes, you might see a group of squirrels together in the same area, but they are usually busy with their own activities rather than working as a team.

Some squirrels build nests in trees, called dreys, where they rest and store food. Ground squirrels, on the other hand, live in burrows under the ground. Whether in a tree or underground, squirrels spend a lot of time making their homes safe and comfortable.

Squirrels are not only active and hardworking but also playful. You might see them chasing each other around trees or leaping between branches. These playful behaviors can also help young squirrels practice the skills they need to survive, like climbing and balancing.

In the winter, squirrels are less active, especially during very cold weather. They stay in their nests to keep warm, relying on the food they gathered earlier in the year. Their ability to adapt to changing seasons is one reason squirrels are found in so many places around the world.