

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## How Does a Squirrel Reproduce?

### Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Female squirrels choose the healthiest and strongest males because these traits ensure their kits will have the best chance of survival.
2. A mother squirrel cares for her kits by feeding them milk, keeping them warm, and protecting them from predators. She also teaches them survival skills.
3. The gestation period is important because it gives the babies time to grow and develop inside the mother before they are born.
4. Raising kits ensures that young squirrels survive to adulthood, which helps maintain squirrel populations and supports the ecosystem by spreading seeds and contributing to biodiversity.

