

Name _____

What Role Does a Squirrel Play in the Ecosystem?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. If squirrels were no longer part of the ecosystem, there would be fewer new plants growing, pest populations might increase, and the balance of the food chain could be disrupted.
2. If squirrels didn't bury seeds, fewer new plants would grow, and forests might not expand or maintain healthy ecosystems.
3. Squirrels help balance the ecosystem by dispersing seeds, controlling pests, and providing food for other animals. Their activities contribute to plant life and predator-prey relationships.
4. Humans can help protect squirrels by planting trees, reducing habitat destruction, and ensuring their natural environments are safe and free from pollution.

