

Name _____



How Does a Squirrel Move?

Squirrels are agile and energetic creatures that are built for movement. Unlike some animals, squirrels do not fly or swim, but they excel at running and climbing. They are incredible climbers and spend most of their time moving through trees and jumping from branch to branch. Their strong claws and sharp teeth help them grip the rough bark of trees, allowing them to scamper up tree trunks with ease. When they leap from one branch to another, they can cover great distances, sometimes jumping as far as 10 feet!

Squirrels are also fast runners on the ground. They can run up to speeds of 20 miles per hour in short bursts. When running, they have a unique way of moving. Squirrels use a bounding motion with their back legs, allowing them to cover ground quickly. They are very nimble and can change direction in a flash, which helps them escape from predators or chase after food.

In addition to running and climbing, squirrels are excellent at balancing. Their long, bushy tails act as a counterbalance, helping them stay steady when they walk along thin branches or jump between trees. The tail helps them make quick turns and balance during high-speed maneuvers.

Squirrels also have good vision and are very aware of their surroundings, allowing them to move quickly and react to danger. Their ability to move quickly in different environments—whether in trees or on the ground—makes them one of nature’s most adaptable creatures.

In the wild, squirrels face many challenges, such as predators and the need to find food. Their speed and agility help them survive by allowing them to avoid danger and find food efficiently. Whether climbing trees, running through forests, or jumping across branches, squirrels have developed unique techniques that help them move and thrive in their environment.