

NAME _____ DATE _____

LEARN ABOUT SQUIRRELS



A squirrel is a small animal. Squirrels are found everywhere in the world except Australia and Antarctica. Squirrels are **mammals**. Mammals are warm-blooded animals, with fur or hair on their bodies. Mammals can feed their babies with milk. Most female squirrels give birth to their babies during the late spring when the weather is warmer.

Squirrels build nests in the trunks of trees or tree branches. Their nests protect them from the cold, and are places they can store their food. Some squirrels use leaves to make their nests. These leaf nests are called **dreys**.

Squirrels eat nuts, seeds, and pine cones. Squirrels are busy

during the fall months collecting food for the winter. They store it in holes and burrows. They do not hibernate. Squirrels sleep but they do not stay asleep for a long time. They wake up and get ready to go back to work.

Some squirrels can live to be about ten or twelve years old.

Most squirrels do not live that long because other animals, such as hawks and cats, eat them.

Squirrels are very interesting animals. Watch the squirrels in your yard this fall and see them get ready for the winter months.

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS:

1. Why do most squirrels NOT live to be ten or twelve years old? _____

2. What are dreys? _____

