

# Squirrel!



## Submitted By:

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## Overview

Students will research how and where squirrels live.

## Grade Levels

3-7th

## Curriculum Correlation

Science Standards: 3.L.2, 4.L.1, 5.L.2 & 5.L.3, 6.L.1 & 6.L.2.3, 7.L.2

Social Studies Standards: 3.E.1.2, 4 H.2.2, G.1.2, 5 G.1.2, C.1.4, 6 G.2.2, 7 G.2.1

## Duration

Two to three 30-45 minute sessions

## Location

Indoors

## Materials

Device for research

Research Report Worksheets attached

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## Educators Information

Squirrels are nimble, bushy-tailed rodents found all over the world. They belong to the Sciuridae family, which includes prairie dogs, chipmunks and marmots.

There are more than 200 species of squirrels, according to the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS), and they are categorized into three types: tree squirrels, ground squirrels and flying squirrels. These three categories are further broken down into many squirrel types, such as Albino, Mountain Tree, Antelope, Spotted, Grey, American Red, Douglas, Fox, Pygmy, Northern Flying, Southern, Arizona Gray, Idaho, Arctic Ground, Albert's, Franklin, Richardson, Rock, White and Black squirrel.



## Procedure

### ENGAGEMENT

- To “hook” your class here is a video of a squirrel that stole someone’s GoPro camera and took it on a trip into the trees!

<http://digg.com/video/squirrel-takes-gopro>

- Where do eastern grey squirrels live?
- What do they eat?
- How do they live?

### EXPLORATION

- Students will be researching where and how the eastern grey squirrel lives. You could choose to have different groups work on different types of squirrels or you could make one big poster/bulletin board of different squirrel information.
- The “big idea” is to use research to present new knowledge to the class. It should

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also get your students interested in doing squirrel observations at school.

Here are some great websites for research:

<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/group/squirrels/>

<https://onekindplanet.org/animal/squirrel/>

<https://www.livescience.com/28182-squirrels.html>

<http://facts.net/squirrel/>

<http://www.cincynature.org/media/events/SquirrelSelfGuided5.pdf>

## EXPLANATION

- Students will explain what they have learned about the eastern grey squirrel (or their species) of squirrel.
- Students can ask the class what they think the information would be and then present the information that was researched. Compare to see if their information matched up.

## ELABORATION

Squirrels are smart! See if you can challenge one in your own backyard!

Build a squirrel challenge course!

<http://handbookofnaturestudy.com/2009/10/outdoor-hour-challenge-autum-series.html/>

## EVALUATION

- The poster that students make and present is their evaluation. Throughout the research process you should observe and correct any misconceptions.

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## Supplemental Reading

List books or activities that are relevant to the activity



## Extensions

Some other fun extensions:

<https://www.kidsdiscover.com/parentresources/backyard-science-fun-with-squirrels/>

Fitbits on squirrels?? <http://www.sciencemag.org/news/2016/09/qa-why-researcher-putting-fitbits-squirrels>



## Resources

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