



SQUIRRELS



(800) 295-5010

Disney's ANIMAL WORLD

SQUIRRELS

Objectives

The student in grades K-2 will:

- Become familiar with the physical characteristics of squirrels
- Learn how squirrels adapt to their environment
- Be introduced to the behavior of squirrels and their offspring

Synopsis

Through live-action footage, students observe rodents with large, bushy tails and sharp teeth—squirrels. Clips from Disney animated films further illustrate key facts about these familiar creatures. Students learn how squirrels build warm nests, use trees for shelter and as a source of food, communicate by chattering and waving their tails—and much more. Two short, fun quizzes help students focus on what they've learned.

Preview Questions

1. Have you ever seen a squirrel? Where? What was it doing?
2. What do you know about squirrels? What kinds of food do they eat? Why do you think squirrels live in trees?

Suggested Activities

1. Discuss animal communication. Call on students to act out or describe squirrel sounds and other forms of communication based on the video. Then have them compare squirrel communication with that of dogs, cats, or birds. You can write their comments in a chart like the following:

Animal Communication			
Squirrels	Dogs	Cats	Birds
wave tail	wag tail	purr	sing
chirp	bark	hiss	fluff feathers

2. Help students complete a chart such as the one below that describes how the special physical characteristics of squirrels help them survive.

Special parts of a squirrel's body	How they help squirrels survive
fluffy tails	help keep them cool or warm
sharp teeth	help them tear food
good sense of smell	helps them find food, detect predators
teeth that grow all the time	help them eat nuts, other hard foods



Subject:
Science
Running Time:
16 minutes

3. Have students recall that, like mice, squirrels build nests. Make a list of other animals that build nests. Then work with students to make a chart such as the one below that lists special names for animal homes. You can print each home and animal name on a separate card, mix up the cards, place them face down on a tabletop, and have students use them to play a matching game similar to “Concentration.”

Animal	Home
warthog	burrow
honeybee	hive
mouse	nest
wolf	den

On the DVD

Scene Selection

The program on this DVD is divided into 5 chapters. This allows the user to enter at different points in the program.

- Chapter 1: Woodland Heroes
- Chapter 2: Quiz Time 1
- Chapter 3: Amazing Acrobats
- Chapter 4: Quiz Time 2
- Chapter 5: Tall Tails

DVD Activities

These classroom activities, found on the DVD, include relevant short scenes from the program.

Nature Walk

Are there squirrels where you live? Take a nature walk as a class. Count the animals you see. Back in the classroom, draw a picture of something you saw on your walk. Share with the class.

Up, Up and Away

What makes a flying squirrel able to fly? Is the squirrel actually flying? Why or why not?

Additional Resources

Disney Educational Productions

<http://www.Edustation.Disney.com>

This award-winning site contains additional activities and resources for use with this DVD.

The Squirrel Place

<http://www.squirrels.org/photo.html>

Photos of squirrels from around the world and more.

Childfun

<http://www.childfun.com/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=75>

Squirrel activities

