



Campbell Creek Science Center

Decode Squirrel Behavior

What wild animal is easy to spot and does all sorts of things that are fun to watch? Squirrels! Develop your observational skills while watching these scampering rodents.

Directions

1. Go outside to an area where you can watch for squirrels. Depending on where you live, you might look for tree squirrels (such as red squirrels or flying squirrels) or ground squirrels. Take some time to observe the animals.
2. Record your observations on the observation sheet. (You can access this page digitally, print it out, or copy it onto your own paper.) Draw or write about the behaviors you see and hear inside the circles.
3. Act like a squirrel! Imitate each squirrel behavior you see after you record it. What do you notice?

Materials

- Pencil or pen
- Paper (optional)

Questions

- How many different behaviors do you observe?
- How do these behaviors help squirrels survive?

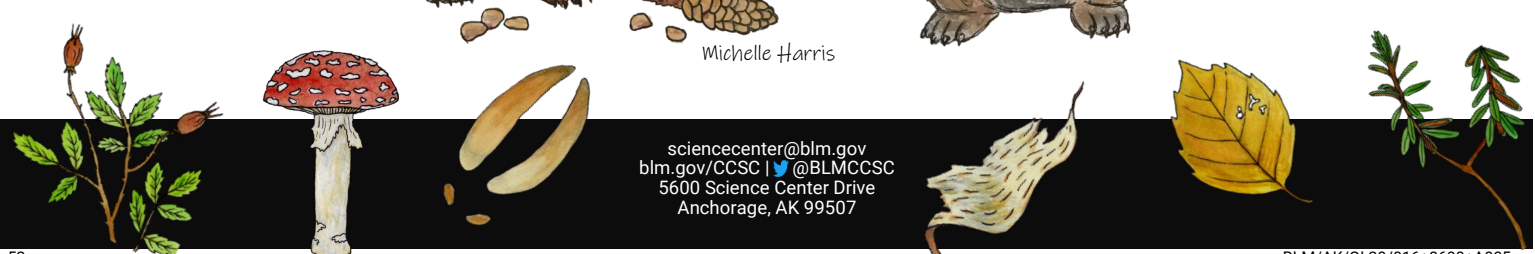
Red Squirrel



Michelle Harris



Arctic Ground Squirrel





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Squirrel Observation Sheet

Squirrels may scamper through trees or run across the ground to get to food and avoid predators.

Moving

Northern Flying Squirrel



Michelle Harris

Watch for squirrels actively eating or carrying food to stash away for winter.

Feeding

Nests in trees and tunnels underground offer protection from the elements and predators.

Creating Shelter

Male squirrels are territorial and will chase off other males from their area.

Protecting Territories

Red Squirrel



Leila Pyle

Squirrels are extremely vocal. What kinds of sounds do you notice? What do you think they are saying?

Communication

