

Welcome/ Staff/Volunteer Names
Introduction: **Today's Topic-Squirrels** **Question: What is a squirrel's life like?**
Ice Breaker/ **Scent Trail**-Students follow a specific scent through stations with clues to figure
Game: out which animal the clues describe.

Background/ **Squirrels** are **mammals**. Review basic mammal characteristics:
Exploration: [hair/fur, babies drink milk, glands, keen senses, large brains, some-horns/antlers]
Ask students to name some different kinds of mammals.
Squirrels are **rodents**. In Iowa we have **Fox Squirrels** and **Gray Squirrels**. They are tree squirrels. There are other kinds of squirrels in other states. Some even live underground and are called ground squirrels.

Activity: **Squirrel Wood Squares**- Students learn squirrel facts by playing a game for points. What they eat, how they live, babies, homes, predators...

Game: **Gathering Nuts**-students race to gather tokens to see if they can get enough to survive the winter.

Read a squirrel story.

Trail Talk: Trail Rules.
What we will do/What to look for-tracks, homes, chewed nuts, listen for sounds

OUTDOOR Search for tracks, leaf nests, holes in trees, chewed nut shells, holes in ground
EXPLORATION: where nuts were dug up. Try to observe squirrels.

Game: **Squirrel Acrobatics**-Students walk along a board or rope to see if they are as agile as squirrels.

SEND OFF: Goodbye **TAKE HOME:** Parent Outline
Next Month's topic-Winter Wonders Squirrel facts

Vocabulary

Mammal, rodent, herbivore, dormant, drey, cache

Squirrel Background

Caduto, Michael J., and Joseph Bruchac. 1991. *Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO. Pp. 175-176 Gray Squirrels
Lane, Margaret. 1981. *The Squirrel*. Penguin Books USA, Inc., Hong Kong.
Shedd, Warner. 1994. *The Kids' Wildlife Book*. Williamson Publishing, Charlotte, VT.
Pp. 48-53 Gray and Red Squirrel information
Wildsmith, Brian. 1993. *Squirrels*. Oxford University Press, Toronto.
Woodworking for Wildlife. 1992. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, St. Paul.
P. 40 squirrel nest box