



Where The Squirrels Are Asking Others

Challenge:

Find out where red (and grey if there are any) squirrels live in the area around your school and show it on a map.

Things You May Need:

- A map of the school and surrounding area. The scale should be either 1:25,000 or 1:50,000.
- A questionnaire so that you can ask people where they have seen squirrels.
- Friends to help you ask lots of different people about the squirrels they have seen.
- A teacher, so you can ask them lots of difficult questions

Things to Think About

A) Map Things

- What do all the symbols, coloured lines and coloured areas mean? Clue – look for the Key.
- What is a scale?
- What are grid references? Clue – the map is divided into lots of little squares. Follow along each one – see, it has a number!
- How can we accurately plot where people see squirrels? Clue – grid references will help.

Your teacher will be able to help you with these.

B) Questionnaire Things

Have a look at the questionnaire on the next page. Does it cover all the things you want to know? If not, add a few more questions.

How many people will you need to talk to? – The more the better as your information will be more accurate.



Remember to be polite when talking to people – introduce yourself, where you are from and what you are doing.



Red Squirrel Questionnaire



1. Have you seen any squirrels in this area? Yes No
2. Were they Red or Grey? (you can show them pictures of red and grey squirrels if they are not sure)
3. How many squirrels did they see? _____
- Was this the first time they have seen squirrels in this place? Yes No

If no – how regularly do they see squirrels in this place ?

Every Day Once a Week Once a Month

Other
(Write it here)

4. Where did they see the squirrel?

a) Grid Reference: _____ (you can show them the map)

b) Post Code: _____ (you can use the internet to find the grid reference)

5. What habitat was the squirrel in?

a) Conifer Woodland b) Broadleaved Woodland

c) Mixed Woodland d) Garden

e) Roadside trees/hedge/wall f) Other (write it down) _____

6. When did they see the squirrel(s)

Date: _____

Approximate Time: _____



We Have Got Lots Of Information – But What Does It Mean?

This is the fun part – analysing your data. Pick out the key information that you need to answer your question(s).

You can show your data in a number of ways:-

Your Map

Mark on where red squirrels (and greys if there are any) have been seen

You may want to use different symbols to show different things like:

- Red or Grey
- Dead or alive

Tables & Graphs

You can use tables and/or graphs to show things like:-

- Red or Grey
- Dead or Alive
- The habitats squirrels were seen in
- The year seen
- The time of year seen
- People's opinions about squirrels

But WHY??

This is the hard part – finding out why!

You may see some patterns in your results – perhaps you find that people see red squirrels in the woodland, but see grey squirrels in their gardens. You may find that people don't see many squirrels at some times of year. You may find that people find a lot of dead squirrels at certain times of year.

Finding out about red squirrel ecology, behaviour and the problems they face will help you answer most of these questions – use the Squirrel-Info Sheets and Edu-Links page of our Website to find out more about red squirrels.



Good Luck!