



Where The Squirrels Are Asking Others

Challenge:

Find out about red (and grey if you have them) squirrels in your area and use a map to help show what you find.

What Exactly Do You Want To Find Out?

These are some ideas, but you can think of your own too. You may want to ask more than one question.

- Where are red squirrels found?
- Are there any grey squirrels in my area? If so, where?
- What habitats are red squirrels (and grey) most usually found?
- What time of year do people see squirrels more frequently?
- What do people think about red and grey squirrels?

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

B) Map Things

What do all the symbols, coloured lines and coloured areas mean?

What is a scale?

What are grid references?

How can we accurately plot where people see squirrels?

C) Questionnaire Things

What do you want to ask people? This will depend on exactly what it is you want to survey but could include things like:-

- Their name.
- Was the squirrel red or grey – are you sure they know the difference?
- Where they saw the squirrel – remember to be accurate.
- Habitat the woodland was in
- When they saw the squirrel
- How many squirrels they saw
- What the squirrel was doing.



You may be interested in their opinions about red squirrel conservation so you may want to ask about things like:-

- Is red squirrel conservation important to them.
- What do they know about red squirrels
- What should be done about grey squirrels

Other things to think about might include:-

- How many people will you need to talk to?
- Where are good places to find people to ask?
- When you meet someone, how should you start?

Tip! It is often easier to analyse your data if you give people a choice of replies, then you just tick a) b) or c)!

Tip! Have a look at the Save our Squirrels Sightings Form on our website – it may help with questions.

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.

