



# The Red Squirrel Year



**Challenge:** Create a calendar to show what squirrels do throughout the year.

## Things You May Need

Either use the calendar that comes as part of this pack or make your own

Either use the cartoons and written descriptions of squirrel activities throughout the year or create your own.

The Edu-Info Sheets on our website will also help you to find out what squirrels do throughout the year.

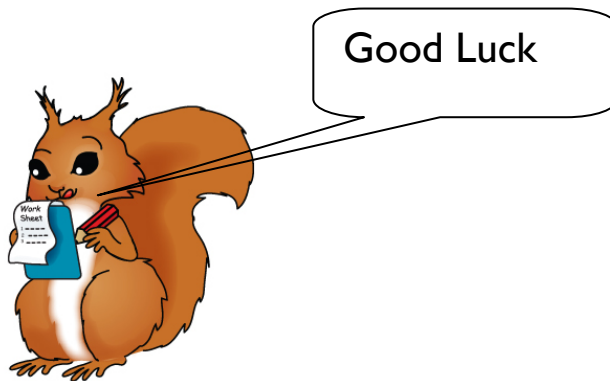
You can also look at the Red Squirrel Ecology Information Sheet on our website for more detailed information.

Try using a search engine (like Google) to find out more about what red squirrels do throughout the year.

It might be fun to do this with a friend (or two).

## What Next?

When you have all the information you need, put it together as a Red Squirrel Calendar.





# The Red Squirrel Year



**Winter**

**Spring**

**Summer**

**Autumn**



# Red Squirrel Activities

What do squirrels do in each season? Cut out the pictures and words and fit them into the correct season. Add in the appropriate environmental factors for each season as well.



Young squirrels leave home and fend for themselves



The female squirrel builds two or three big dreys to look after her kittens.



The squirrels bury nuts and seeds in caches as supplies for the winter.



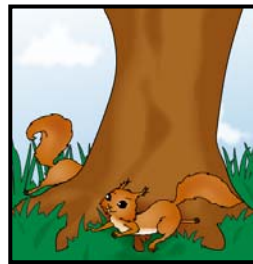
After mating, the male squirrel leaves to find more female squirrels to mate with.



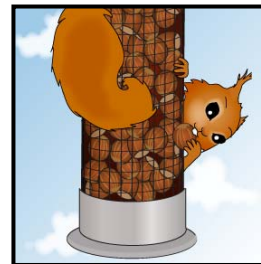
Squirrels dry pieces of mushroom behind tree bark to eat another day.



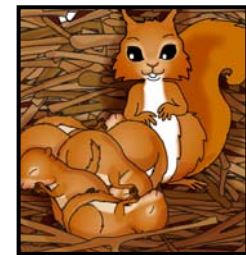
Male squirrels chase females in mating chases. They run up and down trees and leap from branch to branch.



Squirrel kittens learn about life through playing near their mother's drey.



Natural food may be scarce as nuts and berries are not yet ripe. Red squirrels often visit gardens to eat from feeders.



Squirrel kittens are born deaf, blind and hairless. They rely on their mother for milk and protection.



## Environmental Factors

Physical	Natural
Cold weather	Fruits, berries, nuts and seeds ripen
Warm weather	Leaf buds appear on trees
Long day length	Flowers open
Short day length	Leaves turn red, gold and brown and fall off the tree
Days getting shorter	No leaves on the trees, branches are bare
Weather cooling down	Leaves fully open
Weather warming up	Leaves start to open
Snow on ground	Lots of mushrooms around
Often windy with lots of rain	Lots of insect larvae like caterpillars
	No insects around, it is too cold