

Gorgeous

GREY SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are one of the most common wild animals we're likely to see out and about. You don't have to go far to see them scampering about, dashing up trees if you get too close. Or at least, grey squirrels are common. Did you know that the squirrel species native to the UK (meaning it was born here) is actually the red squirrel? Sadly, there aren't as many red squirrels in the UK today and this is partly because of the grey squirrels we're so used to seeing, who actually came from North America!

Are grey squirrels always grey?

That sounds like a silly question doesn't it? But although many grey squirrels are mostly grey, some have red-brown patches on them, especially around their face and tail. They also have a beautiful long bushy tail, which is perfect for helping them to keep their balance when they're climbing.



Where do they live?

Wow - did you know there are nearly 2.7 MILLION grey squirrels living in the UK? It's no wonder we see them so much! You'll find them in woodland, parks and hedgerows, and they build themselves a special nest called a drey, high up in the trees. The drey will be a bit bigger than a football and is made up of twigs, leaves, grass and bark.

What do they eat?

Squirrels love to munch on acorns, nuts, berries and tree seeds and sometimes even flowers and buds. At this time of year in autumn, they're busy building up their food supply for the cold winter months. They bury this underground so that they won't get hungry when winter comes.

Do grey squirrels have friends?

Grey squirrels are mostly solitary, meaning they prefer to live alone. Occasionally, in colder weather, they may share their drey with other squirrels that they know.



FUN FACT!

Grey squirrels have double jointed ankles! This means that their feet can face forwards and backwards, important for when they're climbing up and down trees head first!

FUN FACT!

To stop other squirrels from stealing their winter food stash, grey squirrels have been seen pretending to bury nuts to fool other squirrels that may be watching them! How clever!

DID YOU KNOW?

Grey squirrels don't hibernate, but they may not go out and about as much as in warmer months. In cold weather, they nestle down in their drey and curl their big bushy tails around them, using it as a blanket.

