



The red squirrel can be found in woodlands in parts of England, Northern Ireland and Wales but mostly in Scotland.

The fur of the red squirrel is usually red, with a white-cream belly. They have a long reddy-brown tail (14-19cm), which is almost as long as their body (18-22cm). They also have ear tufts which can be quite long. They can be right or left handed, and have 4 fingers and 5 toes.

Red squirrels build their nests, known as a dreys, in trees. They are made using twigs and lined with leaves and mosses. A female red squirrel has up to two litters of babies a year. The babies are called kittens. When they are born they are blind, deaf, hairless and toothless. They are ready to leave the nest at about 10 weeks.

Red squirrels eat a wide range of foods including seeds, pine cones, larch, spruce, fungi and fruits. During the winter they can remain in the drey for several days. They eat the foods that they collected during the autumn and have stored in trees or just under the ground.

Beatrix Potter wrote a story about a red squirrel called Squirrel Nutkin.

### Questions:

1. Where would you find red squirrels?
2. What colour is a red squirrel?
3. What are the nests called?
4. Where do red squirrels build their nests?
5. What is a baby squirrel called?
6. Describe a new born baby squirrel.
7. How old are the baby squirrels when they are ready to leave the nest?
8. Name three foods a red squirrel eats.
9. Where do the red squirrels get their food from in winter?

