

Squirrels

Red vs. Grey

Where Do Squirrels Live?

Both red and grey squirrels live in woodland. They make nests or “**dreys**” out of twigs and leaves which they build close to the tree trunk, out of the wind.

Grey squirrels sometimes steal the drey from the reds. Squirrels make lots of dreys throughout the woods to use for different activities such as sleeping and breeding.



What Do Squirrels Eat?

Both red and grey squirrels eat the seeds from many different trees such as Scots pine, Norway spruce, larch, beech, hazel and oak, but scientists have found that grey squirrels are better at digesting some foods, such as acorns. This means that if there is limited food available, the grey squirrel is more likely to survive than the red. This is called **competition**.

Which Squirrel Is Better At Surviving?

Scientists now believe that if a woodland has a large number of broadleaved trees (eg. beech, hazel, ash and oak) this will favour the grey squirrels. In contrast if the woodland is mainly made up of conifer species (eg. pine, larch, fir and spruce) the red squirrels have a better chance of survival.



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