

GREY SQUIRREL

Did You Know?

Squirrels communicate in squeaks similar to that of a mouse, a low pitched noise, a chatter, *and* a raspy "mehr mehr mehr"!

APPEARANCE

Even though it is called the Grey Squirrel, these mammals might have grey, brown or even black fur with a white belly and a large bushy tail. The tracks that these critters leave show that, like all squirrels, the eastern gray shows four fingers on the front feet and five on the hind feet, and when moving quickly the bounding stride can be two or three feet long!



FOOD

The eastern gray squirrel hoards berries, tree bark, seeds, nuts and fungi in lots of small stashes so that they can later recover it. These animals have such amazing memories that they can remember exactly where they have buried their food for a very long time! Squirrels have even been known to pretend to bury the object if they feel that they are being watched!



HABITS

The Eastern gray squirrel is one of very few mammalian species that can descend a tree head first! It does this by turning its feet so that the claws of very few mammalian species that the

claws of its hind paws are backward pointing and can grip the tree bark. Eastern gray squirrels build a type of nest, known as a "drey", in the forks of trees. The drey consists mainly of dry leaves and twigs. Squirrels may also nest in the attic or exterior walls of a house, where they may be regarded as a pest, and as a fire hazard due to their habit of gnawing on electrical cables. In addition, squirrels may inhabit a permanent tree den hollowed out in the trunk or a large branch of a tree.