



# BUSY, BUSY SQUIRRELS

Squirrels are found all over Massachusetts. They are appealing, industrious, and fun to watch. We delight in their bushy tails and their acrobatics. They are especially interesting to observe in the fall when they are gathering food to store for the winter.

## Fun Facts about Squirrels

- Some squirrels keep warm and dry in rainy weather by staying under their broad tails, which they arch and spread over their backs.
- Gray squirrels are capable of jumping six feet straight up and can launch themselves a distance of 10 feet or more from a tree, building, or railing.
- Flying squirrels have a wing-like gliding membrane, and their furry, broad, and flattened tail serves as a rudder and stabilizer during glides.
- Squirrels live in nests, dens, and burrows. Gray squirrels have two dwellings—a large leaf-and-twig nest used in summer and a protected den for winter. Red squirrels prefer tree leaf nests but will sometimes use rock dens and burrows.



Five members of the Squirrel Family live in Massachusetts. Can you match their names to their pictures?



Gray squirrel



Woodchuck

Red squirrel

Eastern chipmunk



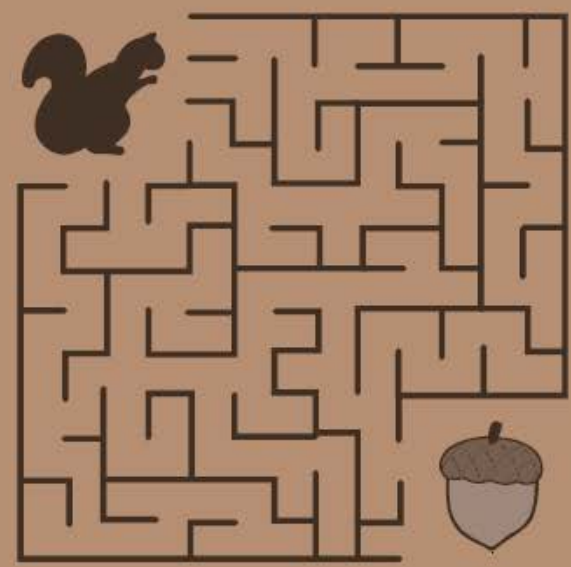
Flying squirrel



## Squirrel Food

Gray squirrels eat mostly nuts. Oak acorns, hickory nuts, bechnuts, and walnuts may comprise three-quarters of their diet. When these nuts are abundant in autumn, squirrels will cache or store them for the winter. They later use their excellent sense of smell to locate this cached food.

Help the squirrel find the acorn!



ready, set,  
**Go Outside!**

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Answers: 1. flying squirrel 2. woodchuck 3. eastern chipmunk 4. gray squirrel 5. red squirrel