



September's Topic:

SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS

- Squirrels and chipmunks belong to a group of animals called rodents. Rodent teeth are made for gnawing and continue to grow during the animal's lifetime.
- In Missouri we have gray squirrels, fox squirrels, flying squirrels, ground squirrels and chipmunks.
- Flying squirrels don't actually fly, but loose folds of skin on their sides help them glide quite far.
- Most squirrels make their homes in hollow trees or in leafy nests in the forks of trees. Chipmunks and ground squirrels dig an underground home, called a burrow, with many rooms.
- Only the ground squirrel truly hibernates in winter. Other squirrels remain active, even on the coldest days. Chipmunks may sleep for periods of time, eating food stores in their burrow, but they may emerge on warmer days to find more food.
- Both squirrels and chipmunks eat many kinds of nuts and seeds. Their strong teeth are made to chew through the hardest of shells. They hide extra food underground and return to it later.
- Predators of squirrels and chipmunks include owls, hawks, foxes, coyotes and bobcats.