

# EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

## *Wildlife Rescue: Safe Travels for Squirrels*

### Series Overview

When humans build highways or clear land for development, they often put wildlife in danger. This series looks at unusual ways people around the world have come to the rescue of threatened species by providing safe ways to adapt to their changing habitats.



Lexile: 570

Words: 759

### About This Book

Forest villages in France, England, the U.S., and Australia feature rope bridges and buckets of acorns for squirrels. Readers will meet some of the rescuers helping these little red squirrels survive.

### NEXT GENERATION SCIENCE STANDARDS ALIGNMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The activities and learning ideas in this guide have been correlated with the **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)**: <https://bit.ly/2kx58A2>.

This title most closely relates to the following standard: **Students can make a claim about the merit of a solution to a problem caused when the environment changes and the types of plants and animals that live there may change. (3-LS4-4)**





## Before Reading

### About Red Squirrels:

Write the word “squirrel” on the board. Ask students to raise their hands if they’ve ever seen a squirrel. Invite them to share what they know about squirrels.

Tell students you’ll be reading about a species of squirrel that lives in Europe called the red squirrel. Explain that this species of squirrel has many similarities to the squirrels they may have seen in their own neighborhoods.

## During Reading

**Check for Understanding:** Ask students the following questions as they read:

- **pp. 4-9:** What important facts did you learn about the red squirrel? (Answers will vary but may include: *It has red fur and a long red tail. It weighs just under one pound. It lives an average of 5 to 7 years. It’s a good athlete. It lives in trees. Its favorite food is hazelnuts. It naps several times a day.*)
- **pp. 10-11:** Why are red squirrels in danger? (*Many squirrels are hit and killed by cars when they try to cross the road.*)
- **pp. 12-19:** How did the SOS Red Squirrels and Wildlife group help red squirrels in France? (*They built a rope bridge to help squirrels cross the highway.*)
- **pp. 20-23:** How does the SOS Group encourage the squirrels to use the bridge? (*A villager fills a bucket with hazelnuts each morning and hangs it at the end of the bridge.*)
- **pp. 24-25:** Where is the Nutty Narrows Bridge? (*Longview, Washington*)

## After Reading/Activity Introduction

Ask students to share other ways they can help squirrels in their own neighborhood. Explain that one way they can help is to build a squirrel feeder. Tell students they’ll be building their own squirrel feeders and using them to observe squirrels’ eating habits and behavior over the next two weeks.



## STUDENT ACTIVITY: Make a Squirrel Feeder

In this guided activity, students will make homemade squirrel feeders! You can divide students into groups to make a few feeders that you'll place in the schoolyard to observe the squirrels' behavior over the next couple of weeks. Or, you can have each student make their own feeder, bring it home to place in their yard or another outdoor space, and do their observations at home. Here are the materials you'll need for each feeder:

- A clean, empty milk carton
- A scissor
- Popsicle sticks
- Nontoxic paint
- Paintbrushes
- Glue
- Long pieces of twine
- Corn, peanuts, and/or seeds

1. Cut an opening on each side of the milk carton that's large enough for a squirrel to get through.
2. Paint the milk carton as you please and allow it to dry.
3. Glue a popsicle stick on either side of the top of the milk carton to make a roof.
4. Pour corn, peanuts, and/or seeds through the opening you cut and into the bottom of the feeder.
5. Pass the twine through either end of the top part of the milk carton and hang it from a tree branch or other place!

Have students record their squirrel observations over the next two weeks, taking note of their behavior and how much they eat. What did they learn about squirrels?



## ADDITIONAL ONLINE RESOURCES

- **Red Squirrel (Animalia):** <https://animalia.bio/red-squirrel>
- **Nutty Narrows Bridge Facts for Kids (Kiddle):** [https://kids.kiddle.co/Nutty\\_Narrows\\_Bridge](https://kids.kiddle.co/Nutty_Narrows_Bridge)
- **Squirrel Facts for Kids (Kiddle):** <https://kids.kiddle.co/Squirrel>

## VIDEOS

- **City of Longview has ‘Nutty Narrows’ Network: Video Monitors Squirrel Traffic Safety:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBti0Qa4c\\_ov](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBti0Qa4c_ov)
- **Bridge built for squirrels in the Perry District (KREM 2 news):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TLLubb0eEYU>
- **Where Red Squirrels Live (Nat Geo WILD):** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T2LL596KKR8>

