

## Mammals

An at home, do-it yourself family activity for Ages 7-11 (can be modified for younger or older children). Provided by Gumbo Limbo education staff.

**Purpose:** Learn about our local wild mammals.

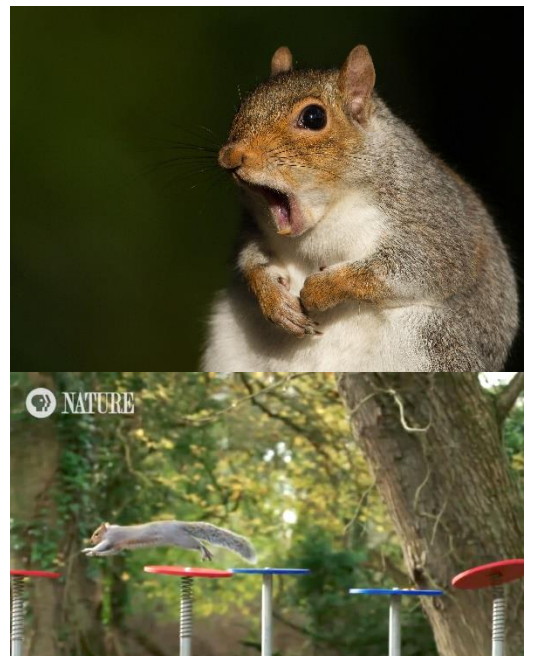
What are some **characteristics** of a **mammal**? List examples of mammals, native to your state, seen in your neighborhood or yard. Characteristics of mammals:

- They have fur or hair
- They are warm blooded
- They feed their babies milk
- They have a backbone (vertebrates)
- They give live birth (do not lay eggs)

### Activity:

We will focus on a wild mammal you probably see every day, squirrels!

- Design a squirrel obstacle course. If you have watched squirrels, then you probably know how smart they are. Are you smarter than a squirrel? Build your own squirrel obstacle course and see if your squirrel neighbors can figure it out. Click on the link to watch if a squirrel figures out the course. [Squirrel Obstacle course PBS](#)



- Once your squirrel neighbors have come out of their dens and nests, join the **citizen science** project: Project Squirrel. What is Project Squirrel? The goal is to assist scientists understand squirrel **ecology**. All you have to do is count the squirrels you see in your yard, park or neighborhood. <https://scistarter.org/project-squirrel> or <https://projectsquirrel.org/index.shtml>. Visit the webpage to log your results and contribute to a world-wide science project!



Fox Squirrel



Gray Squirrel