

SQUIRRELS



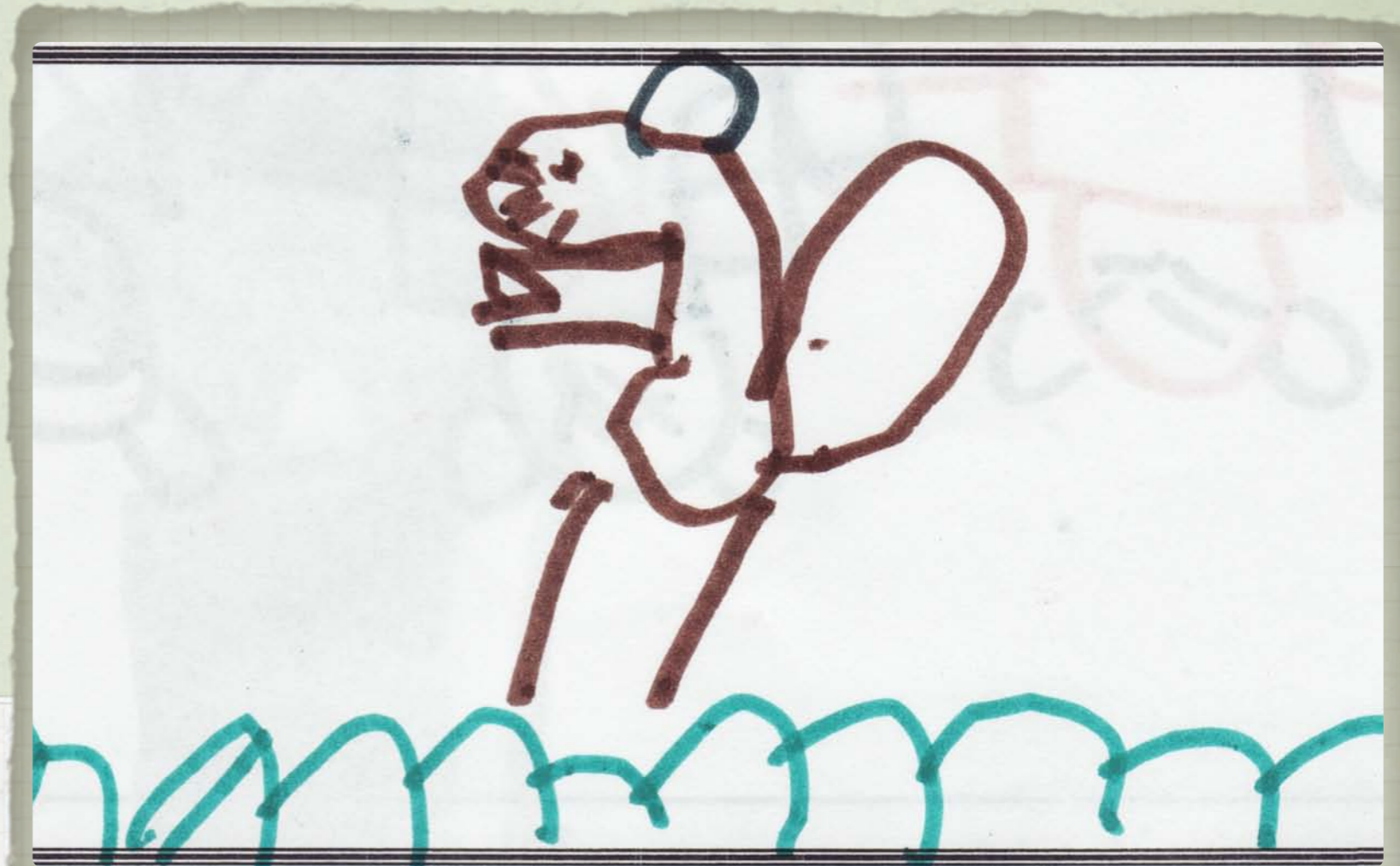
KINDERGARTEN 2012

SQUIRREL WONDERS

a Kindergarten project

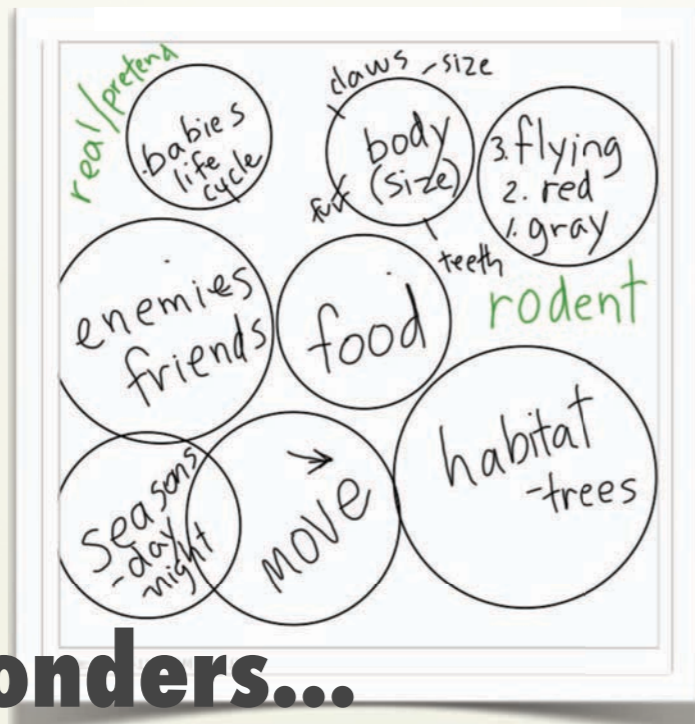


It all started with Scaredy Squirrel!
After we read the series the children
were making up recess games and
talking about Scaredy Squirrel in
their play. I asked them if they
would like to learn more about
squirrels...and the project began!



How should we find out more about squirrels?

1. Get books from the library.
2. Find someone who knows about squirrels (an expert).
3. From the computer (internet).
4. watch squirrels outside.



Our wonders...

The Researchers at work...



Andre: It has to stretch out when it flies



Researchers

I wonder what the different kinds of squirrels are...

Tree Squirrels

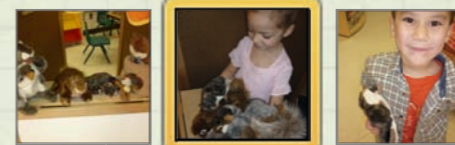
1. Red Squirrel
2. Gray Squirrel
3. Flying Squirrel

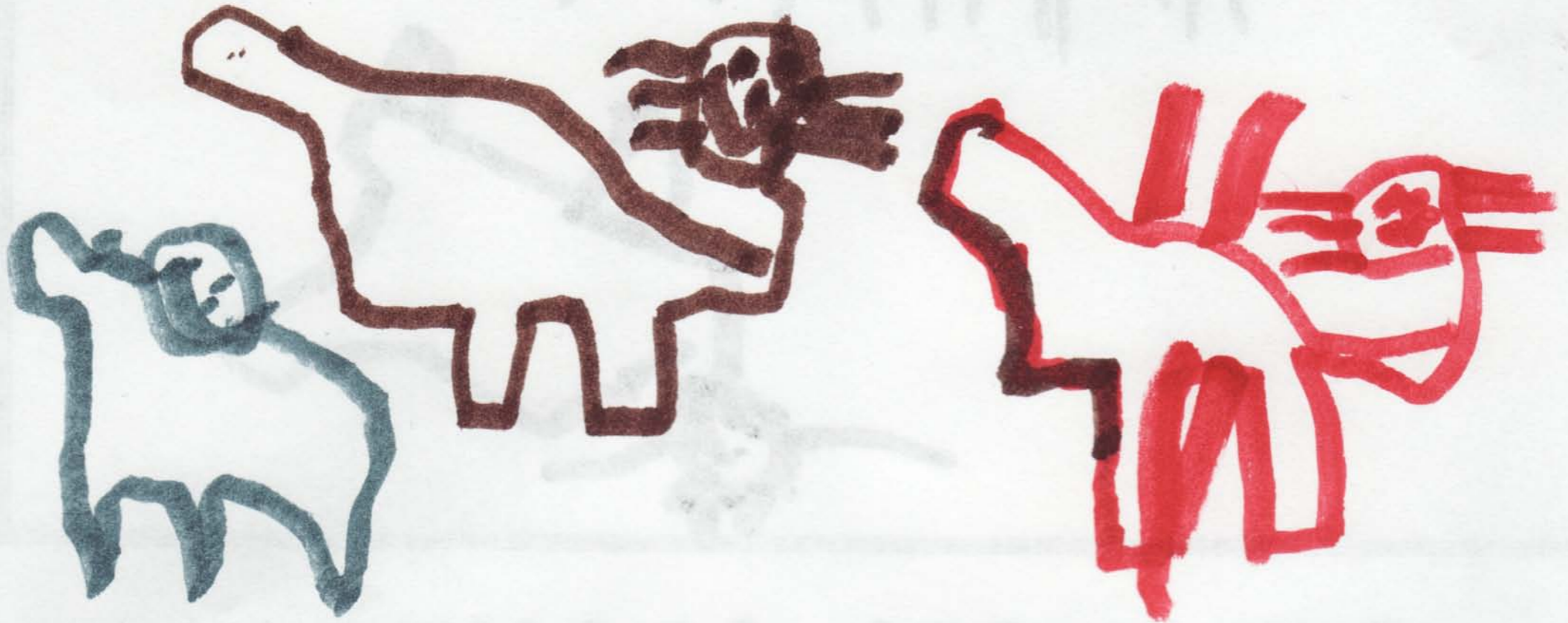
- * Red squirrels live in holes in the ground.
- * Flying Squirrels live in bird houses and sheds.
- * Gray Squirrels let people feed them, Red Squirrels are more scared.
- * Gray Squirrel is the biggest. Flying Squirrel is the smallest. Red Squirrel has a red ring around its eyes. And a black stripe on its sides only on summer. In winter it has a orange stripe down its back.

Gallery Squirrel Wonders.1 Kinds of Squirrels-Puppets



Hailey with all three squirrel puppets





Gray squirrel and red squirrel and flying squirrel.



I wonder where squirrels live...

1. Squirrels live in trees.
2. Red squirrels live in holes in the ground.
3. Flying squirrels live in bird houses and sheds.
4. Squirrels share houses.

* Squirrels can have 10 houses. When it's cold they go in tree holes.

They have one trees hole for a bathroom, one for babies, one for nuts and food.

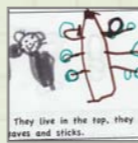


Alex explains why squirrels sometimes live in tree holes.

* Who makes the holes in the trees?
Woodpeckers, insects, and rotten trees.



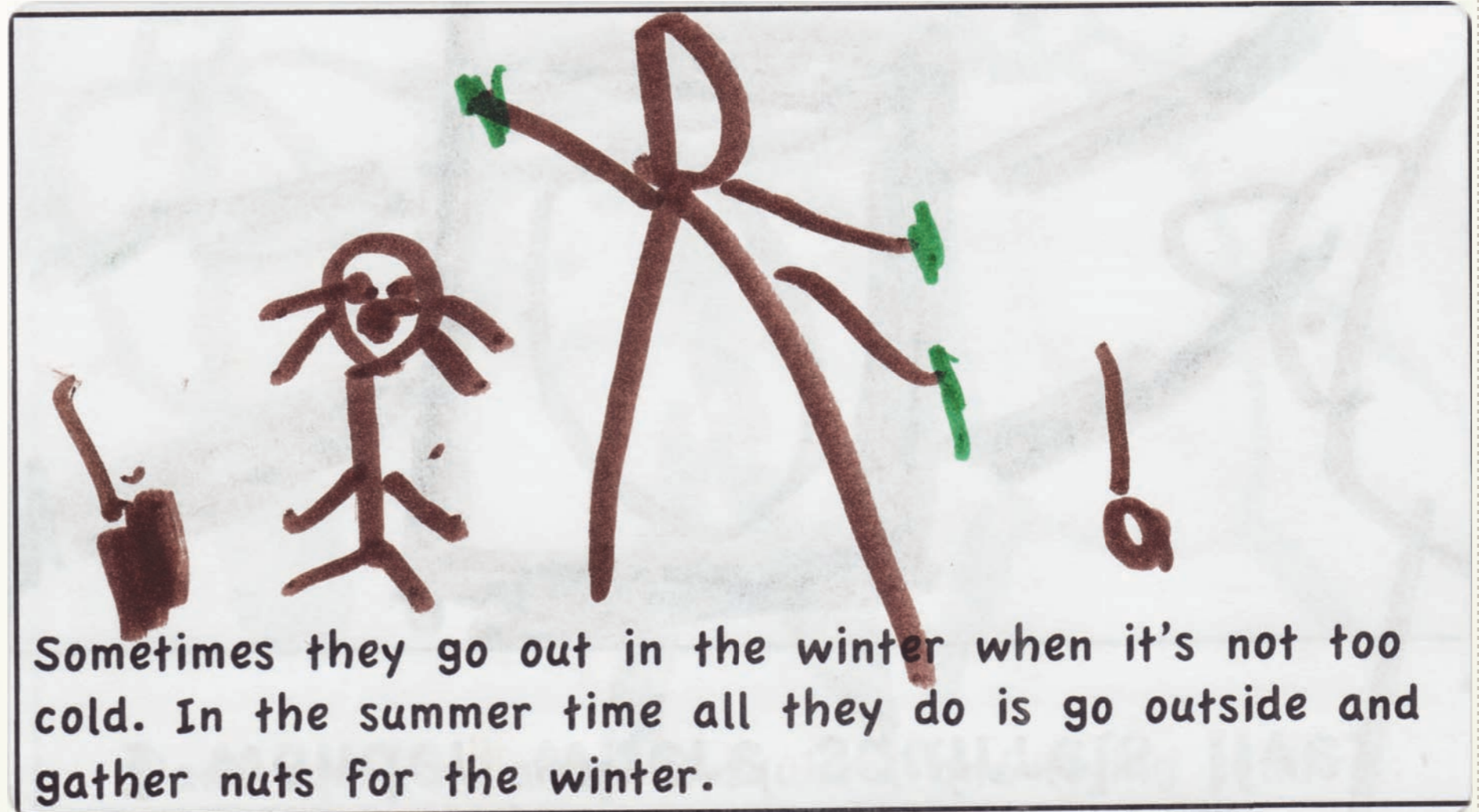
They live in trees, tree stumps.



In Winter..

1. Collecting nuts and storing them in his home for winter.
2. They can find food in the winter, they don't hibernate.
3. Some stay out in winter.
4. They get thicker fur in winter cause it's colder out.
5. Get up and gather nuts during the winter. Don't sleep all winter. Like bears and badgers.
6. Squirrels don't hibernate, they get out when it's warm. To sleep and eat.

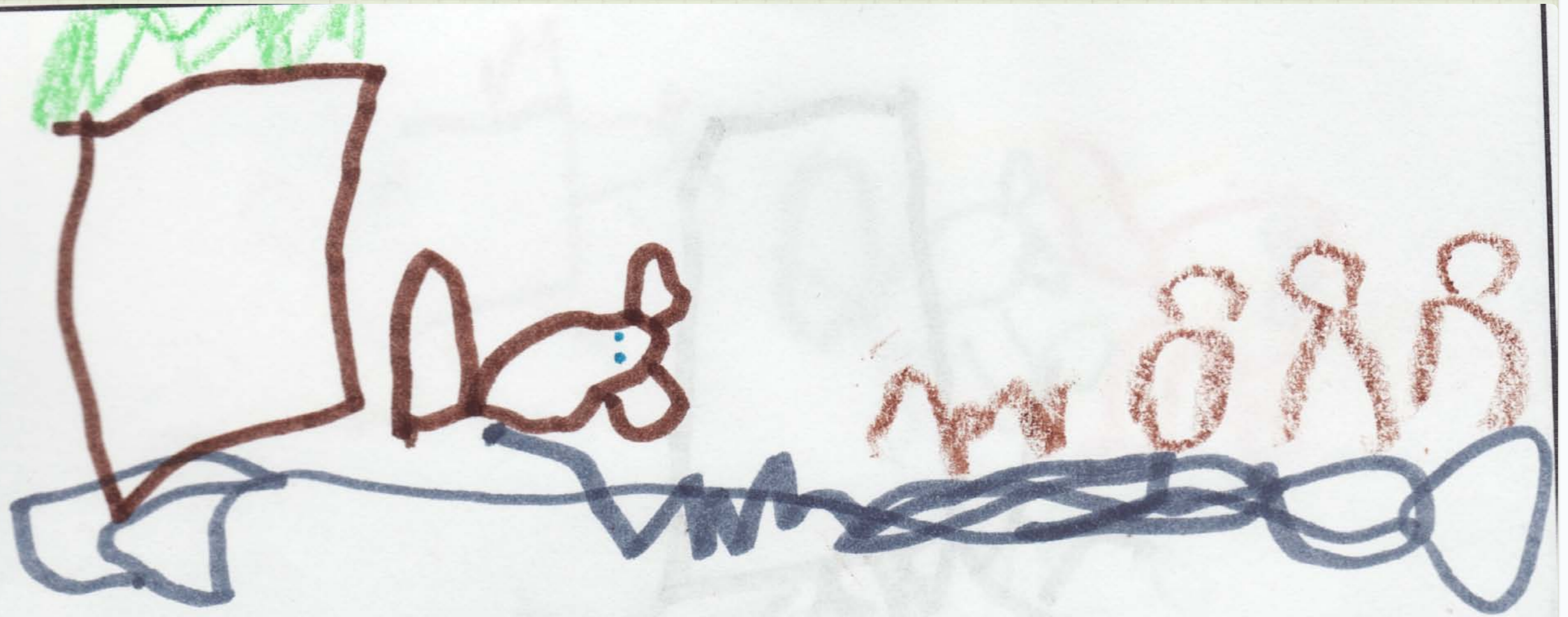
I wonder what squirrels do at night and day, and in different seasons...



•**HIBERNATING** means it's a very long sleep when it's winter. Like bears and (ground) squirrels and other stuff. (click the word for glossary)

•**TOPOR**: Temporary Hibernation (click the word for glossary)

•Squirrels sleep at night. (Except flying squirrels, they are **nocturnal**.)



They don't hibernate, if they run out of nuts then they go get them if it's not too cold.





Andre explains how squirrels behave in Winter.

I wonder about baby squirrels...

Life Expectancy and Mating

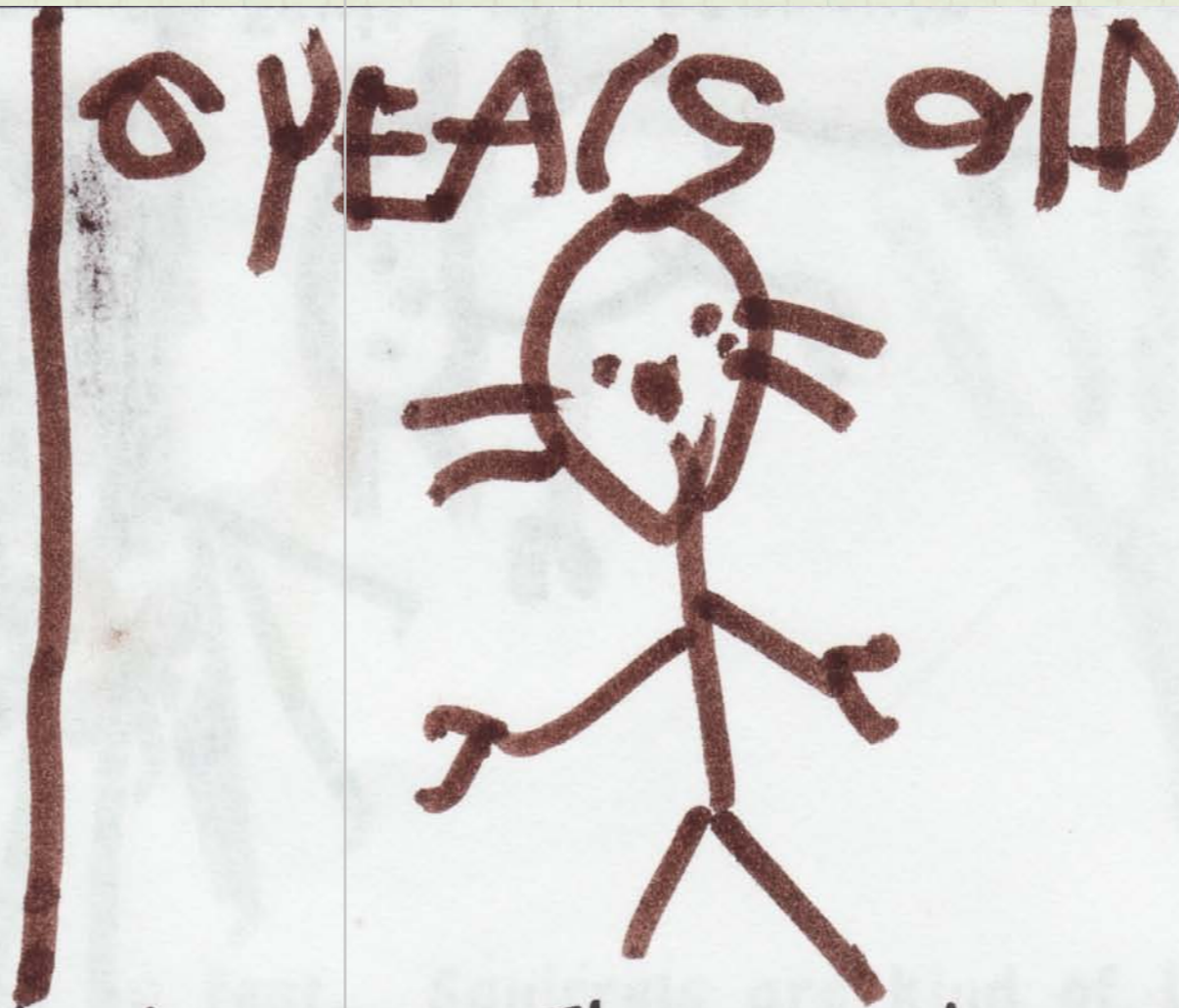
1. Squirrels live only 5-6 years.
2. The boy squirrels "fight over one girl. In February the boys push, chat, twitch their tails. The girl picks a boy. When the mom has the babies the dad moves away. She chases the boy away."
3. Squirrels can have babies at 1 yr old.

- * At 7-10 days they get hair. At 3 weeks they get thicker fur and teeth. At 4-5 days their eyes & ears open.
- * Young squirrels. when they get older they can grow up and go by themselves. (4 months)
- * Baby squirrels are scared and shy.

- * Babies have no fur. They cuddle together when they're born so they can stay comfy and warm. Their eyes are purple and closed, and their ears are closed when they're born too.
- * (6 weeks gestation.) 3-4 are born at the same time. They are called kittens. They weigh 4 1/2 ounces.
- * Baby squirrels drink special milk from their moms.



- * Mommies pick them up in their mouth, on their tummies.



That squirrels live only 6 years. They can lay eggs (be a mommy) at only one year old. They come just from the tummy.



I wonder what squirrels eat...

1. Some squirrels eat nuts, leaves, seeds, acorns, leaves, pods, shoots, and fruit.
2. Eating people's food, like lemon
3. Some squirrels eat lemons, "in autumn they eat fruit cause they're still fresh and in winter they aren't."
4. They don't just eat nuts, they eat different stuff like blackberries.
5. Squirrels eat bird eggs.
6. They eat healthy food.
7. Nuts, peanuts, is it coconuts?

Movie Squirrel Wonders. 1



Zandria explains what kinds of food squirrels eat in fall and the other seasons.

- * Red Squirrels eat pine and conifer trees, Gray Squirrels eat oak, ash, beech, and hazel.
- * Do they drink milk? Yes, from a place on the mommy squirrels.
- * They can use their teeth to open the nuts.





Acorns and nuts.



I wonder how squirrels move...

Squirrel 'Tails'

1. His tail is for steering and balancing.
2. They use their tails to balance them and to turn when they swing from tree to tree.
3. They signal danger by stomping their feet and slapping their tails.

Movie Squirrel Wonders.2




Andre explains how flying squirrels 'fly'.

 He has sharp claws to hang on tight.

 Squirrels can dig.

 Bury his acorns so other squirrels can't get them.

 They hang on tight.

 Squirrels can stay still for 1/2 hour.

 In summer they "hang on tight to get some fresh air and cool off".

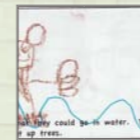
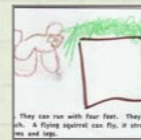
 They're looking for food and seeing a great view.

 They are friendly. Chasing.

 It has to stretch out when it flies




The flying squirrel can go 50 feet. Squirrels are kind of like monkeys but they don't swing on trees. Because they live in trees. Squirrels can jump, and run, They kind of run sometimes on their tippy toes.



 Climbing trees

 Squirrels can climb down trees head first.

 Swimming in the water.

 Squirrels can stay still for 1/2 hour.



Squirrel Movement to music, including 'playing dead'!



Squirrel Movement



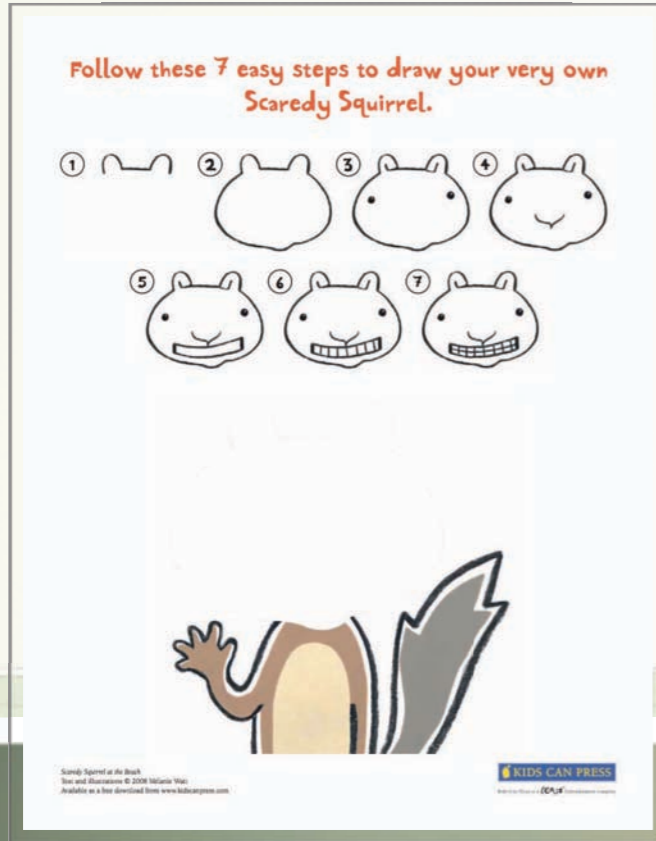
I wonder what squirrels look like...



Their tails are fluffy, they clean themselves, they make it like a blanket, with their big fluffy tail.



1. Some squirrels have long teeth to chew on bark. They have molars.
2. They have big teeth
3. They have red eyes.
4. Gray squirrel is the biggest.
5. Red squirrel has a red ring around its eyes. And a black stripe on its sides only on summer. In winter it has a orange stripe down its back.



How to draw Scaredy Squirrel, on the Smartboard and creating squirrels with Crayola Model Magic.

I wonder about their friends and enemies...

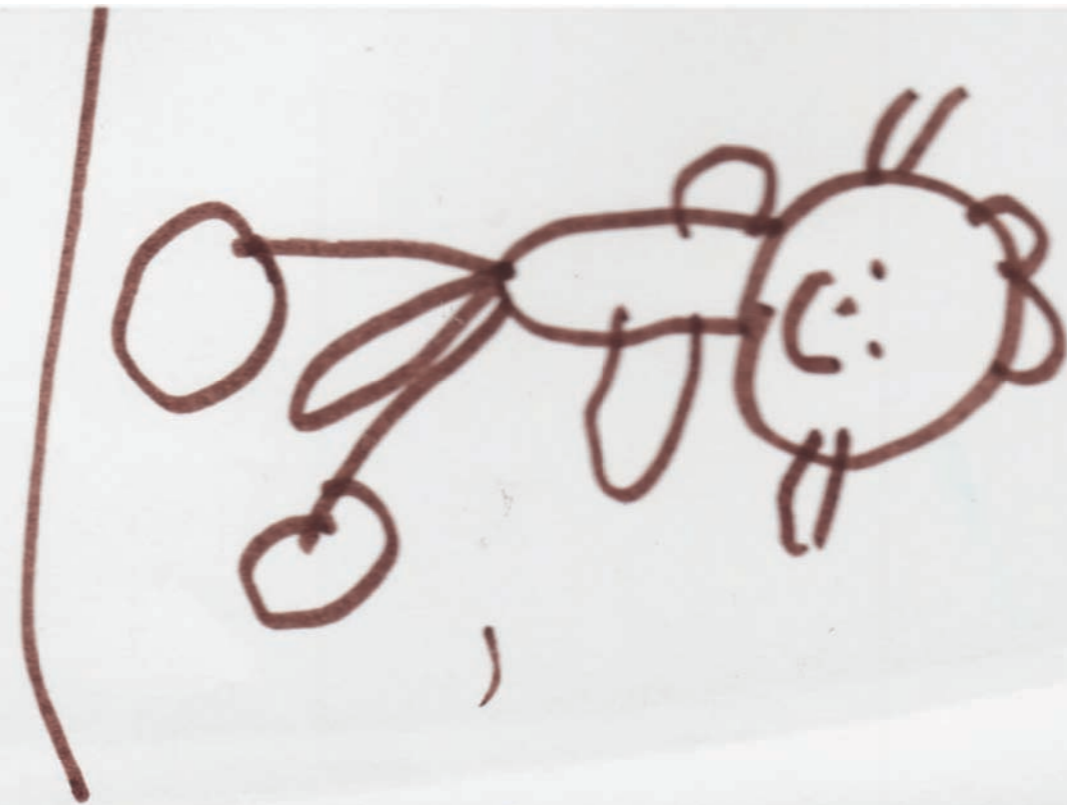
1. Predators: Snakes, weasels, hawks, dogs and foxes can hurt them.
2. They are friendly.
3. They are pests. They eat trees and vegetables.
4. Friends are birds and other kinds of squirrels.
5. Chipmunks are in their family

Glossary: (click for definition)

camouflage

predator

playing dead



They camouflage cause the enemies won't eat them and think they're not dead to eat. They play dead.

I wonder about how they stay safe...

1. "He's camouflaged, so other animals don't think that's their food."
2. If they stay really still they are camouflaged.
3. Gray squirrels let people feed them, red squirrels are more scared.
4. Squirrels can stay still for 1/2 hour.
5. They play dead.



Zandria explains about the squirrel's enemies.

The Predator Game



The class explains how to play The Predator Game.

Squirrel Games

The Predator Game



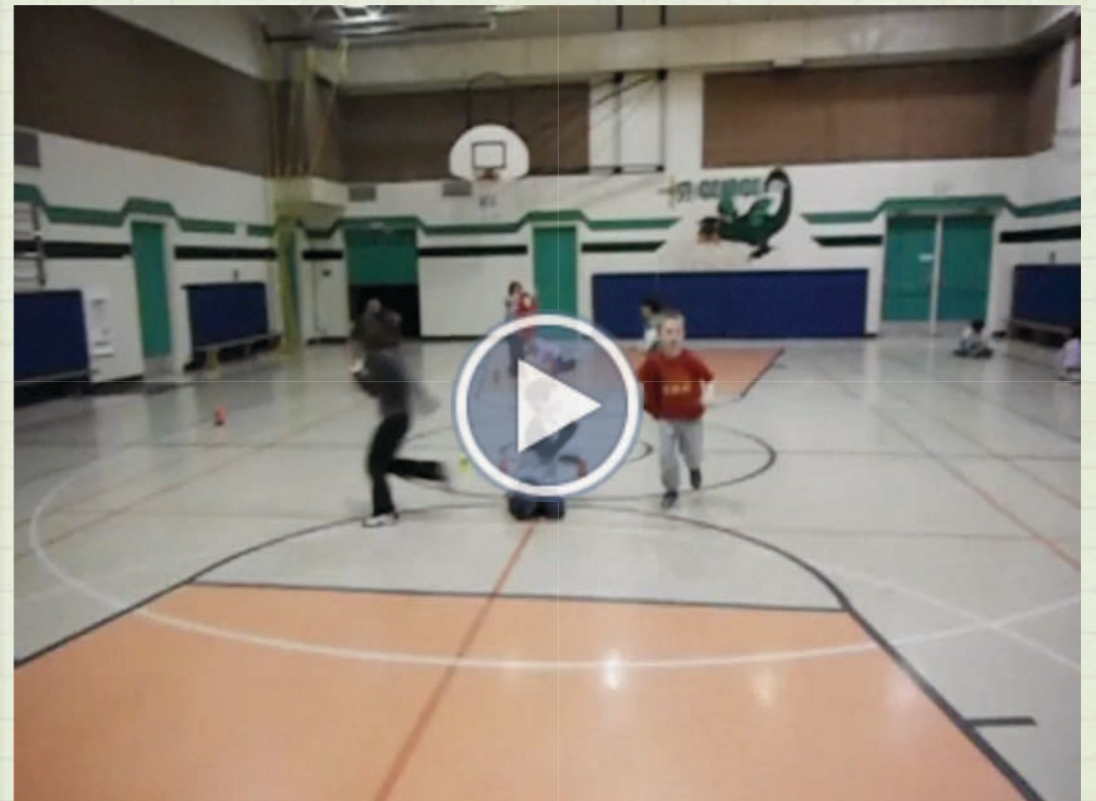
The Predator Game in action (Squirrels in the Trees).

The Acorn Game



A game using Speed Stacks as acorns!

The Acorn Game



The game in action.

CURRICULAR OUTCOMES

ARTS EDUCATION

CPK.1 Express ideas through exploration of the elements of dance including: action/body/dynamics/relationships/space.

CPK.2 Explore a variety of drama strategies including: role/imagining/parallel play/ journeys/meetings.

(Dramatized how a squirrel balances, spreads its arms out to fly, squirrel movement to music)

CPK.4 Create art works that express own observations and ideas about the world.

(draw, paint, sculpt, build squirrel models)

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

CRK.1 Comprehend and respond to a variety of visual, oral, print, and multimedia texts that address identity (e.g., exploring interests), community (e.g., belonging), and social responsibility (e.g., contributing).

(photos, videos, listening to oral presentations by students, story books) *Engaging in inquiry*

CRK.2 View and interpret the basic message of visuals and objects in a variety of texts including models, photographs, dramas, dance creations, and videos.

(identify what the photos are trying to tell them, watching video for learning)

CRK.3 Listen, comprehend, and respond to gain meaning in oral texts.

(listen to students share their research-make connections, conversations)

CRK.4 Comprehend, retell, and respond to basic ideas in stories, poems, songs, and informational texts read to them.

(storybooks and informational books read to them on squirrels, respond through conversations)

CCK.1 Compose and create various visual, multimedia, oral, and written texts that explore and present thoughts, ideas, and experiences.

(retell learning to teacher and classmates, created drawings of learning, dictated squirrel story)

CCK.2 Use and construct symbols, pictures, and dramatizations to communicate feelings and ideas in a variety of ways.

(create representation of learning)

CCK.3 Use oral language to converse, engage in play, express ideas, and share personal experiences.

(conversations and dramatic play -Scaredy Squirrel games)

CCK.4 Create messages using a combination of pictures, symbols, and letters.

(dictated text to a scribe, copying text)

ARK.1 Reflect on viewing, listening, emerging “reading”, representing, speaking, and emerging “writing” experiences in the context of teacher-led discussions.

(discussed how to find the information we needed, reflect and discuss various representations of learning)

ARK.2 Reflect and talk about new learning. (Exploring the documentation of their learning.)



MATHEMATICS

SSK.3 Build and describe 3-D objects.

(create models of squirrels with Crayola ‘Model Magic’)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PEK.1 Fitness : Participate in a variety of moderate to vigorous movement activities for short periods of time to increase heart and respiration rate, flexibility, muscular endurance, and muscular strength.

(various games about squirrels (stacking cups as acorns)/predators & prey)

EK.2 Locomotor Movement: Explore and practise ways to move the body through space, including at:

a progressing-toward- control level of skill when: walking / running/ jumping forward and sideways

an exploration level when: hopping/skipping/leaping/sliding/ galloping

(squirrel games and movement exploration)

PEK.3 Non-locomotor Movement: Explore and practise ways to move the body in personal space at a progressing- towards-control level of skill when: balancing/jumping and landing (on the spot).

(squirrel movement exploration)



LIFE SCIENCE

LTK.1 Examine observable characteristics of plants, animals, and people in their local environment. (through video)

Squirrels Gone Wild!



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XzHqaP-Cevo>

SOCIAL STUDIES

DRK.3 Analyze ways in which place and physical systems influence daily life, including the influence of place on the daily life of First Nations and Métis people.

(How squirrels adapt to seasonal changes.)

Camouflage

Camouflage is a method of concealment that allows an otherwise visible animal, military vehicle, or other object to remain unnoticed by blending with its environment.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Camouflage>

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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Find Term

Squirrel Wonders - Friends and Enemies

HIBERNATING

Hibernation is a state of inactivity and metabolic depression in animals, characterized by lower body temperature, slower breathing, and/or lower metabolic rate. Hibernating animals conserve energy, especially during winter when food supplies are limited, tapping energy reserves, body fat, at a slow rate. Although traditionally reserved for "deep" hibernators such as rodents, the term has been redefined based on specialized metabolic reductions[1] and many experts believe that the processes of daily torpor and hibernation form a continuum.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hibernating>

Related Glossary Terms

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Find Term

Squirrel Wonders - Night & Day/Seasons

Nocturnal

Nocturnality is an animal behavior characterized by activity during the night and sleeping during the day. The common adjective is "nocturnal".

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nocturnality>

Related Glossary Terms

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Find Term

Squirrel Wonders - Night & Day/Seasons

Playing dead

Apparent death, colloquially known as playing dead or playing possum, is a behavior observed in a wide range of animals in which they take on the appearance of being dead to an observer. This could either be an involuntary reflex action, as in tonic immobility; or an adaptive behavior as in thanatosis, which is used both as a defense mechanism and as a form of aggressive mimicry.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Apparent_death

Related Glossary Terms

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Find Term

Squirrel Wonders - Friends and Enemies

Predator

In ecology, predation describes a biological interaction where a predator (an organism that is hunting) feeds on its prey (the organism that is attacked).[1]

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Predator>

Related Glossary Terms

Drag related terms here

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Find Term

Squirrel Wonders - Friends and Enemies

TOPOR: Torpor, sometimes called temporary hibernation[1] is a (usually short-term) state of decreased physiological activity in an animal, usually characterized by a reduced body temperature and rate of metabolism.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Torpor>

Related Glossary Terms

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Squirrel Wonders - Night & Day/Seasons