Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Circle group

In the fall, a squirrel is busy. It runs with a nut in its mouth. It stops and digs a small hole. It drops the nut in and covers it with dirt. Then it runs off to find more.

Why does the squirrel do this? Winter is coming. In the cold, food is hard to find. Snow may cover the ground. The trees have no nuts.

A squirrel does not sleep all winter. It still needs to eat. So it hides food in many spots. When it is hungry, it sniffs with its nose and finds a nut.

A squirrel forgets some nuts. That helps the forest. A lost acorn can grow into a new oak tree.

Questions

1. What does a squirrel do with a nut in the fall?

_____

_____

2. Why is food hard to find in winter?

_____

_____

3. How does a squirrel find a hidden nut?

_____

_____

4. What can happen to a nut that a squirrel forgets?

_____

_____

5. Why does a squirrel hide nuts in many spots?

_____

_____

Words to know

acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree

sniff: to smell something by breathing in short breaths

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Triangle group

In the fall, a squirrel is very busy. It runs across the grass with a nut in its mouth. Then it stops, digs a small hole, and drops the nut inside. It covers the hole with dirt and dashes off to find more.

Why does the squirrel do this? Winter is coming. In the cold months, it is hard to find food. The ground may be covered with snow, and the trees have no nuts.

A squirrel does not sleep all winter. It still needs to eat. So it saves food in many different spots. When it is hungry, it uses its nose to sniff out a buried nut.

A squirrel forgets some of its nuts. That helps the forest. A forgotten acorn can sprout and grow into a new oak tree.

Questions

1. What does a squirrel do with a nut in the fall?

_____

_____

2. Why is it hard to find food in winter?

_____

_____

3. How does a squirrel find a buried nut?

_____

_____

4. What can happen to a nut that a squirrel forgets?

_____

_____

5. Why does a squirrel hide nuts in many different spots?

_____

_____

Words to know

buried: put in the ground and covered up
acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree
sprout: to start to grow
dashes: runs very fast for a short time
sniff: to smell something by breathing in short breaths

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Square group

During the fall, a squirrel is extremely busy. It scampers across the grass with a nut clamped in its mouth. Suddenly it stops, digs a small hole, and drops the nut inside. After covering the hole with dirt, it dashes off to look for another one.

Why does the squirrel work so hard? The answer is that winter is coming. During the cold months, food is difficult to find because snow may blanket the ground and the trees have no nuts left.

A squirrel does not sleep through the whole winter, so it still has to eat. For that reason, it saves food in many different places. When it gets hungry, it uses its keen nose to sniff out a buried nut.

Every squirrel forgets a few of its nuts, and that actually helps the forest. A forgotten acorn can sprout and eventually grow into a brand new oak tree.

Questions

1. What does a squirrel do with a nut during the fall?

_____

_____

2. Why is food difficult to find during winter?

_____

_____

3. How does a squirrel locate a buried nut?

_____

_____

4. What may happen to an acorn that a squirrel forgets?

_____

_____

5. Why is it smart for a squirrel to store nuts in many different places?

_____

_____

Words to know

buried: put in the ground and covered up
acorn: the nut that grows on an oak tree
sprout: to start to grow
dashes: runs very fast for a short time
sniff: to smell something by breathing in short breaths

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Easier · 117 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.6

1. It digs a hole, drops the nut in, and covers it with dirt.
2. Snow may cover the ground, and the trees have no nuts.
3. It sniffs with its nose.
4. It can grow into a new tree.
5. It will have food in many places for winter.

Triangle: Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

This passage · 132 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.2

1. It digs a small hole, drops the nut in, and covers it with dirt.
2. The ground may be covered with snow, and the trees have no nuts.
3. It uses its nose to sniff it out.
4. It can sprout and grow into a new tree.
5. It will have food in many places for the winter, so it is less likely to run out.

Square: Why Squirrels Bury Nuts

Harder · 150 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.4

1. It digs a small hole, drops the nut inside, and covers it with dirt.
2. Snow may blanket the ground, and the trees have no nuts left.
3. It uses its nose to sniff the nut out.
4. It can sprout and grow into a new oak tree.
5. It will have food in many spots, so it is less likely to run out during winter.