

Read. Make. Do. Squirrels are...Squirrely!



Not only are squirrels squirrely, they're everywhere! Next time you go on a walk, ride in a car or look out a window, count how many squirrels you see and watch what they do. Do they all look the same? How are they alike or different? Do you see them on the ground, in the trees or running across the top of a fence? You can become a squirrel scientist by reading, watching, drawing and writing about the squirrels you **observe** (watch closely). For more information on how to become a squirrel scientist, link to <https://projectsquirrel.org/index.shtml>.

What Makes Squirrels So Special?

Alert ears to listen for predators and warnings from other birds and mammals.

Strong fluffy tails act like blankets to keep warm, like umbrellas to stay dry and cool, and like rudders to keep balanced.

A powerful sense of smell helps them find buried food, even under lots of snow.

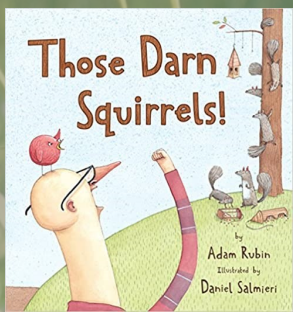
Strong, hard front teeth for breaking through tough acorn, walnut and other shells. These teeth called **incisors**, never stop growing because they wear down so fast when breaking through hard shells.

Strong toes and claws help them climb up and down trees, leap from branch to branch and hang upside down.



You Can Draw a Squirrel! Just follow step by step.





Thank you for reading *Those Darn Squirrels* by Adam Rubin.
Join us in doing some activities inspired by Mr. Fookwire
his yard full of Squirrely “friends.”

Create a Squirrel

Mr. Fookwire loved to look out his window and paint! Can you use your paints and paper to make a squirrel creation? Paint the body of the squirrel and then get creative with the tail. You could use leaves, flowers, cotton balls, milk caps or anything else you find around your house or yard. Can you create a pair of wings for your squirrel? How else can you decorate your squirrel?

Use your imagination!



Build a Bird & Squirrel Feeder

You can build a bird feeder just like Mr. Fookwire! These bird feeders use recycled materials that you can find at home. Follow one of the links below to create a bird feeder of your own. The squirrels will thank you.



greatstems.com/2013/05/wildlife-projects-for-kids-milk-jug-bird-feeders.html



crayola.com/crafts/milk-carton-bird-feeder-craft/



naturalbeachliving.com/orange-bird-feeder/#wprm-recipe-container-39661



From *Those Darn Squirrels* by Adam Rubin & illustrated by Daniel Salmieri.

Squirrel Machines

Squirrels can be so much fun to watch. Mr. Fookwire tried to build a contraption to keep the squirrels out of the feeders. It is similar to something called a Rube Goldberg machine.

Check out these crazy squirrel ninja courses for inspiration.

youtube.com/watch?v=hFZFjoX2cGg

youtube.com/watch?v=v-cNrFeaYWo

Or try your hand at making your own machine.

tinkerlab.com/engineering-kids-rube-goldberg-machine/