

Smarty Pants Magazine for Kids

We've Gone Squirrely!

Reference Post, "We've Gone Squirrely" - Post Date August 30, 2019

Subject: Squirrels

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Educator Resources

Learning Experiences:

1. Language Arts. Reading or 'Read-Aloud' Nonfiction
2. Science. Animals -The Squirrel
3. Textured Art

Vocabulary:

Application: Use and encourage the child to use the word in a sentence.

- *Species* - kinds/families of animals with common features
- *Glide* - sail briefly through the air
- *Rodent* - rat-like
- *Gnaw* - small, nibbly bites
- *Morsel* - a small piece
- *Territorial* - protected area
- *Zigzag* - back and forth
- *Predator* - an animal that will eat another animal
- 'Squirrely' - can mean 'scatter-brained'

Science Comprehension Quiz from the Post

True or False?

1. There are more than 170 species of the squirrel? (true)
2. Squirrels will eat pizza? (true)
3. Chipmunks are in the squirrel family? (true)
4. The country of Australia has the most squirrels in the world. (false)
5. Squirrels find ALL the acorns they bury. (false)
6. Squirrels were first introduced in the state of California. (false. New York)

Squirrel Sentence Cognitive Math (watch out, this one is 'tricky')

If 21 squirrels each hid 10 nuts, how many squirrels would there be?

Answer: (there would still be just 21 squirrels!)

More Squirrel Math

If the Pygmy squirrel's heart beats 500 times in 1 minute, how many times would it beat in 5 minutes?

Which math function do you use to find the answer?

add (+)

subtract (-)

multiply (x)

divide (÷)

Formula: $500 \times 5 = 2500$

Nutsy and the *Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack* Monster

Language Arts - Reading Fiction

Themes: Fall/Autumn

Relationships. Friendship

It was a chilly, windy night in Autumn. Nutsy Squirrel was sleeping in a hole in his tree. He was dreaming of an acorn as big as an apple. But just as his tiny teeth took a bite, he suddenly woke up!

He heard a BIG noise.

“Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack. Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack.”

Nutsy sat up. He swished his bushy tail. He peeped out of his hole. It was quiet. It was dark. Then he heard the noise again -

“Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack.” Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack.”

Nutsy’s little ears perked up. His little round eyes opened wide. Nutsy was scared. There must be a big Monster under his tree. He hoped the Monster couldn’t climb trees. Nutsy sat up all night with his tail wrapped around himself.

Finally, the sun came up.

“I have to move from this tree!” Nutsy said to himself. So he packed his little bag full of nuts.

He was afraid of the *“Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack”* Monster at the bottom of his tree. But Nutsy was a good jumper. He held his bag in his teeth. He closed his eyes. He leaped across to the branch of his neighbor in the tree next door.

“Can I move into a hole in your tree?” he asked Bushy, his neighbor next door.

“Sorry, no room, Nutsy” said Bushy.

Nutsy scampered to another tree, “Can I move into a hole in your tree?” he asked, Chatters, his neighbor in the next tree.

“Sorry Nutsy, no room,” answered Chatters.

It was getting cold. The wind was fluffing up his fur. He had to find a tree for the Winter. Nutsy thought about his hole high up in the old oak tree. It was perfect for a squirrel.

He thought about his warm soft nest of bark, moss, and feathers. But he was afraid of the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” Monster under his tree.

Nutsy went to the tree of his neighbor, Whiskers. “Can I move into a hole in your tree?”

“Sorry, no room, Nutsy,” said Whiskers. “What’s the matter with your tree?”

Nutsy told Whiskers about the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” Monster.

“Really?” chattered Whiskers, “Nutsy and Whiskers, the world’s bravest detectives solve the mystery of the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” Monster!” (Whiskers was always dramatic). So with a burst of courage he cried, “Let’s go see!”

Their bushy tails were twitching as they tip-toed on their tiny claws back to Nutsy’s tree. A cold whoosh of wind swept around them. They huddled together to keep warm. Then they heard the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack. Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” sound of the Monster.

Suddenly, the two little detectives weren’t so brave. They leaped behind the trunk of a big oak tree. They sat up straight and still.

“You look and see,” whispered Nutsy to Whiskers, “it was your idea.”

“No, you look and see,” said Whiskers to Nutsy, “it’s your tree.”

“O.K.,” Nutsy said, “I count to three and we both look and see.”

Nutsy took a deep breath and counted, “1..2..3.. – look!” The wind ruffled their tails. The wind swirled the leaves up in the air and around and around.

“*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack. Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack.*”

They both peeked carefully from their safe place behind the tree. And there was the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” Monster under Nutsy’s tree!

Nutsy and Whiskers looked at each other and started laughing. They laughed and laughed. The mystery of the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack*” Monster was solved.

An icy gust of wind swept through the leaves again.

“*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack. Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack.*”

“It’s just the wind blowing the dry leaves that fell off your tree!” cried Whiskers.

“Thanks, Whiskers, you’re a good neighbor,” said Nutsy, giving him a big squirrel hug. See you in the Spring.”

“Bye, Nutsy,” said Whiskers as he scampered off.

Nutsy climbed up to his cozy little nest and fell fast asleep. And when the wind blew the leaves under his tree, he said, “I’m not afraid of you - you old “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack* Monster!”

(In the Autumn time of the year, if you see a pile of leaves - jump in.

You will hear the “Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack Monster, too!)

The End

Reading Comprehension Questions

1. Name the 4 Seasons (Fall, Winter, Spring, Summer)
2. What ‘falls’ in the Fall? (leaves)
3. What is another word for the season Fall? (Autumn)
4. What is an ‘acorn’? (the seed of an oak tree)
5. What is the weather like in the story? (cold, windy)
6. Why did Nutsy have to move? (he was afraid there was a monster beneath his tree)
7. Name something that makes you feel afraid.
8. Name Nutsy’s 3 friends. (Bushy, Chatters, and Whiskers)
9. Who was Nutsy’s ‘best friend’? (Whisker)
10. How do you know that Whiskers was Nutsy’s ‘best friend’? (Nutsy was the one who helped him.)
11. Who are your best friends?
12. What is a ‘neighbor’? (people who live in your area)
13. What was the ‘Monster’? (the wind blowing the dry leaves of Autumn.
14. What did Nutsy do after they solved the mystery of the “*Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack Monster*”? (went back to his hole in the tree and went to sleep).

JUST FOR FUN!

Here is a REALLY funny trick you can play on your students:

Before you go out on the playground for recess, tear out a sheet of paper and write this:

Dear Kids, Could you leave me some nuts under the tree for a snack?

Thanks, Nutsy, the Squirrel.

Hide it under a tree for you or guide kids to "accidentally" discover it. Get excited and call the children to read it. (young children will wonder and older kids will scoff).

Next day, write another note to accidentally find.

Hey Kids, thanks for the nuts. Love, Nutsy.

Adapt the game any way you want!

Textured Art - Unlabeled Squirrel Picture

Color the picture first (talk about the squirrel as they color, or quiet time coloring, or use the Scribble-Scrabble instructional words) or, the picture can be painted (brown, gray, or mix shades)

Glue on a 'googly eye.'

Cut short pieces of brown yarn and glue on as whiskers.

Glue on a peanut in paws (or take a Fall walk and gather acorns to glue on paws).

Cut squares of gray or brown felt and glue on for 'soft touch'.

Glue brown cotton balls on tail for fluffy (teacher can make by dip in brown tempera paint and dry)

Have a Happy 'Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack' Fall!

Name: _____ Date: _____



Name: _____ Date: _____

True or False?

There are more than 170 species of the squirrel? _____

Squirrels will eat pizza? _____

Chipmunks are in the squirrel family? _____

The country of Australia has the most squirrels in the world? _____

Squirrels find ALL the acorns they bury? _____

Squirrels were first introduced in the state of California? _____

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer These Questions

Name the 4 Seasons

What 'falls' in the Fall? _____

What is another word for the season Fall? _____

What is an acorn? _____

What is the weather like in the story? _____

Why did Nutsy have to move? _____

Name something that makes you feel afraid_____

Name Nutsy's 3 friends_____

Who was Nutsy's best friend?_____

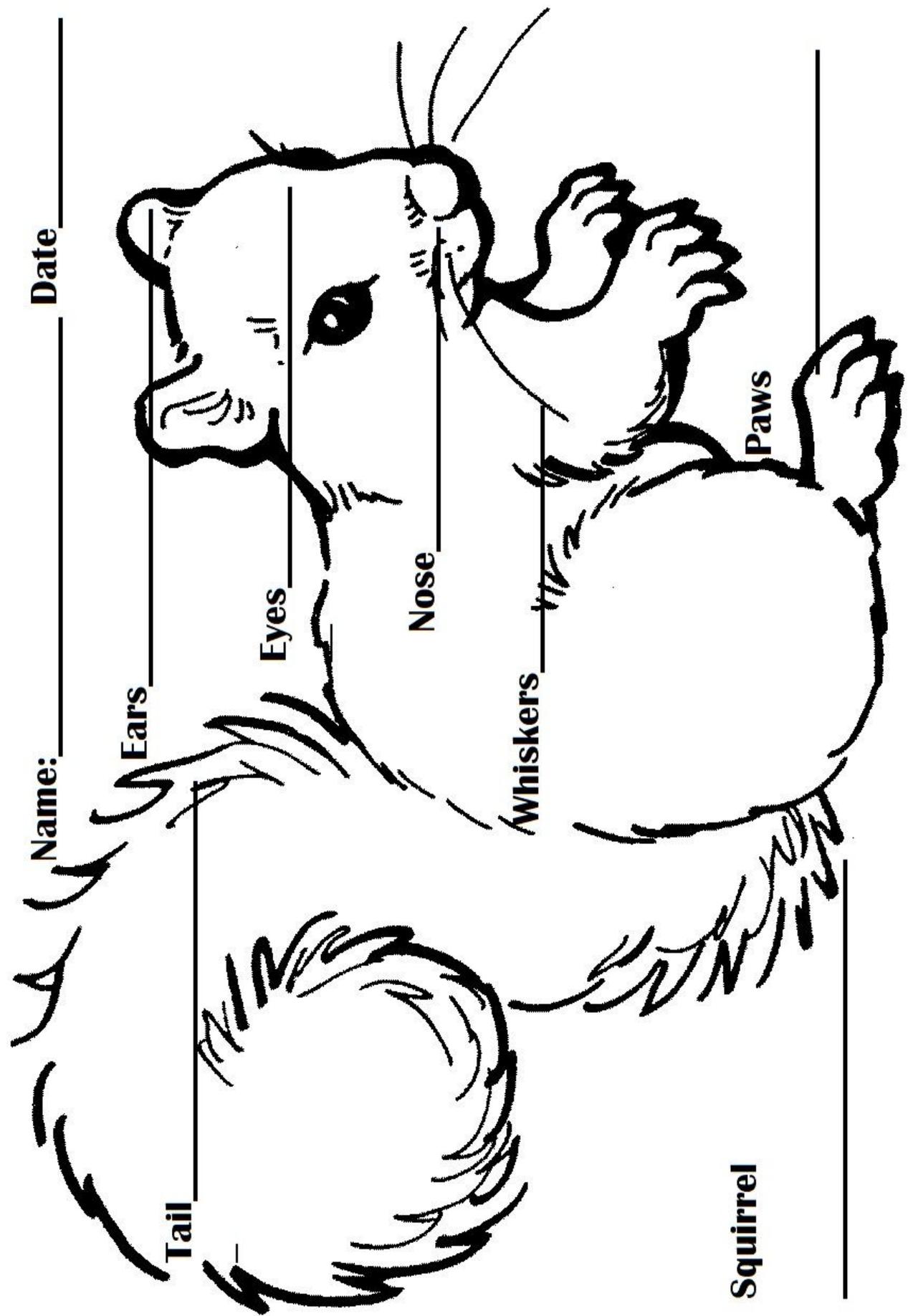
Who are your best friends?_____

What is a neighbor?_____

What was the Monster in the story?_____

What did Nutsy do after they solved the mystery of the
"Crinkle-Crinkle-Crack-Crack Monster"?

Name: _____ Date _____



Squirrel