



## American Red Squirrel

### *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus*

Red squirrels can be found in coniferous, deciduous and mixed forests.

They are a small, solitary squirrel, slightly larger than a chipmunk. They have red to reddish gray fur on top, with a white or cream colored belly. There is a white “ring” around the eyes.

Red squirrels eat nuts, seeds, bark, insects, mushrooms, pine seeds and cones. In the fall, these squirrels will cut down green pine cones and store them underground. They will also create stock piles, called middens, under logs and at the base of trees.

Red squirrels mate in late winter. Three to seven babies will be born about one month later. At eighteen weeks old, the babies will leave the female. They make their homes in tree hollows, logs, underground or in tree crotches.

They are most active at dawn and dusk. The curved front claws and powerful hind legs make this squirrel a great climber! These squirrels are also good swimmers and will swim across rivers to get to the other side.



### **Ask A Naturalist**

Do you like maple syrup? These squirrels do! They will chew through a maple tree until the sap starts flowing. Then they will leave until the water evaporates and then come back and get the sugary treat that is left on the tree's trunk and branches.