



Get ready to meet one of the coolest critters in the forest, the Northern Flying Squirrel! Don't let their name fool you, these squirrels can't actually fly like birds, but they are experts at gliding from tree to tree. With big, bright eyes, a fluffy tail, and a special skin flap called a 'patagium', they look like tiny superheroes in the night sky. Their soft, grey-brown fur helps them blend in with the trees, making them hard to spot.



Speaking of trees, that's where Northern Flying Squirrels love to hang out. They can be found in the forest regions of North America, from Alaska to California, living in tree holes or nests made of bark and leaves. They're nocturnal, which means they're most active during the night, when the forest comes alive with all sorts of interesting sounds and movements. Being high up in the trees also keeps them safe from many predators on the ground.

Just like us, Northern Flying Squirrels have a favorite snack: nuts! But that's not all they eat, they also munch on fruits, insects, bird eggs, and even tree bark. They share their forest homes with other animals like owls, raccoons, and foxes, and sometimes, these neighbors can become a bit too interested in them. To protect themselves, they'll use their amazing gliding skills to escape or hide in their tree homes.



So, what makes Northern Flying Squirrels different from other squirrels? Well, unlike their cousins, the Gray Squirrels, they're smaller and have that unique skin flap that helps them glide. Northern Flying Squirrels also have a neat trick - they use their tail as a rudder, steering themselves as they glide through the air. So next time you're in a forest, keep an eye out for these amazing animals, and remember, there's always more to discover about the incredible world of nature!



Solve each problem.

Use the article to answer the question.

- 1) Where might a Northern Flying Squirrels live?
 - A. in an underground burrow
 - B. in the bank of a river
 - C. a tree hole
 - D. In a cave
- 2) What is a Northern Flying Squirrel's favorite snack?
 - A. Insects
 - B. Seeds
 - C. Fruits
 - D. Nuts
- 3) When are Northern Flying Squirrels most active?
 - A. They are most active during the day.
 - B. They are most active during the morning.
 - C. They are most active during the afternoon.
 - D. They are most active during the night.
- 4) Can Northern Flying Squirrels actually fly?
 - A. No
 - B. Only adult squirrels
 - C. Only newborn squirrels
 - D. Yes
- 5) What is the color of Northern Flying Squirrels' fur?
 - A. Black with brown stripes
 - B. Grey-brown
 - C. Red
 - D. White with black spots
- 6) Where can Northern Flying Squirrels be found?
 - A. They can be found in the grasslands of Australia.
 - B. They can be found in the deserts of Africa, from Algeria to South Africa.
 - C. They can be found in the forest regions of North America, from Alaska to California.
 - D. They can be found in the plains of Asia, from China to India.
- 7) How do Northern Flying Squirrels protect themselves?
 - A. They use their gliding skills to escape or hide in their tree homes.
 - B. They use their ability to change color to blend in with their surroundings.
 - C. They use their sharp claws to fight off predators.
 - D. They use their ability to produce a bad smell to deter predators.
- 8) What makes Northern Flying Squirrels different from Gray Squirrels?
 - A. They are smaller and have a unique skin flap that helps them glide.
 - B. They have a bushier tail and a different diet.
 - C. They make a different sound and live in different habitats.
 - D. They are larger and have a unique skin coloration that helps them blend in.
- 9) What do Northern Flying Squirrels use to steer themselves when gliding?
 - A. Their fur
 - B. Their tail
 - C. Their wings
 - D. Their claws



- 10) What special skin flap do Northern Flying Squirrels have?
- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| A. Pterodactyl | B. Pteridium |
| C. Pantherium | D. Patagium |

Determine if the statements is something the animal would say (W) or it it is not something the animal would say (N).

- 11) "During the daylight, I'm the most active and that's when you'll find me gliding from tree to tree."
- 12) "I have my favorite snacks: nuts! But I also munch on fruits, insects, bird eggs, and yes, sometimes even tree bark!"
- 13) "Unlike other squirrels, I'm smaller and have a flappy skin called a patagium. That's what helps me glide!"
- 14) "My tail is not just for show, it's like a steering wheel! It helps me control my glide through the air."
- 15) "Daytime is my favorite part of the day! I love soaking up the sun in open spaces."
- 16) "I hate eating nuts. They're too hard and tasteless."
- 17) "I live on the ground where there are no predators at all."
- 18) "We don't live in trees, trees are too high. We prefer living on the ground."
- 19) "I'm a fussy eater and will only eat nuts."
- 20) "During the night I'm most active. This makes me a nocturnal creature, like an owl!"
- 21) "We can't be found in the forest, we prefer deserts."
- 22) "I live in North America."

Determine if the statement is a fact or opinion based on the information in the article.

- 23) Northern Flying Squirrels feed on various foods including nuts, fruits, insects, bird eggs, and tree bark.
- 24) Northern Flying Squirrels are more interesting to watch than their grey squirrel cousins.
- 25) Northern Flying Squirrels are mostly active at night.
- 26) It's fascinating to see Northern Flying Squirrels share their homes with other animals.
- 27) Northern Flying Squirrels don't fly, but they can glide from tree to tree.
- 28) Their big, bright eyes make Northern Flying Squirrels look cuter than other squirrels.
- 29) Northern Flying Squirrels use their tails as steering devices when gliding.
- 30) Northern Flying Squirrels usually live in tree holes or nests built with bark and leaves.
- 31) The best thing about these squirrels is their ability to glide through the air.
- 32) It's amazing how Northern Flying Squirrel can escape from predators by gliding from tree to tree.

Determine if the statement is true or false.

- 33) Northern Flying Squirrels can glide.
- 34) Northern Flying Squirrels make their homes in burrows underground.
- 35) Northern Flying Squirrels have been known to eat tree bark.



- 36) Northern Flying Squirrels can fly like birds.
- 37) Northern Flying Squirrels are most active at night.
- 38) Northern Flying Squirrels are only active during the day.
- 39) Northern Flying Squirrels are only found in Alaska.
- 40) Northern Flying Squirrels only eat nuts.
- 41) Northern Flying Squirrels use their tails to steer while gliding.
- 42) Northern Flying Squirrels are grey-brown in color.

Determine if the sentence is a declarative(d), exclamatory(e), interrogative(i) or imperative(m).

- 43) Northern flying squirrels are nocturnal, which means they are active at night.
- 44) Are northern flying squirrels nocturnal animals?
- 45) Northern flying squirrels can glide for distances of up to 300 feet.
- 46) Northern flying squirrels have a flap of skin called a patagium that allows them to glide through the air.
- 47) How do northern flying squirrels glide through the air?
- 48) Where do northern flying squirrels live?



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Name: **Answer Key**



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|---|---|
| 1. <u> C </u> | 26. <u> opinion </u> |
| 2. <u> D </u> | 27. <u> fact </u> |
| 3. <u> D </u> | 28. <u> opinion </u> |
| 4. <u> A </u> | 29. <u> fact </u> |
| 5. <u> B </u> | 30. <u> fact </u> |
| 6. <u> C </u> | 31. <u> opinion </u> |
| 7. <u> A </u> | 32. <u> opinion </u> |
| 8. <u> A </u> | 33. <u> true </u> |
| 9. <u> B </u> | 34. <u> false </u> |
| 10. <u> D </u> | 35. <u> true </u> |
| 11. <u> false </u> | 36. <u> false </u> |
| 12. <u> true </u> | 37. <u> true </u> |
| 13. <u> true </u> | 38. <u> false </u> |
| 14. <u> true </u> | 39. <u> false </u> |
| 15. <u> false </u> | 40. <u> false </u> |
| 16. <u> false </u> | 41. <u> true </u> |
| 17. <u> false </u> | 42. <u> true </u> |
| 18. <u> false </u> | 43. <u> declarative </u> |
| 19. <u> false </u> | 44. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 20. <u> true </u> | 45. <u> declarative </u> |
| 21. <u> false </u> | 46. <u> declarative </u> |
| 22. <u> true </u> | 47. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 23. <u> fact </u> | 48. <u> interrogative </u> |
| 24. <u> opinion </u> | |
| 25. <u> fact </u> | |



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C. a tree hole D.
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A. Insects B.
C. D. Nuts
- 3) When are Northern Flying Squirrels most active? (paragraph 2)
A. They are most active during the day. B.
C. D. They are most active during the night.
- 4) Can Northern Flying Squirrels actually fly? (paragraph 1)
A. No B.
C. D.
- 5) What is the color of Northern Flying Squirrels' fur? (paragraph 1)
A. B. Grey-brown
C. D.
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A. Pterodactyl B.
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