

Investigating the Red Squirrel: A Non-Chronological Report

Learning objective: To identify and use the features of a non-chronological report to inform the reader about a specific subject.

Read the report below about the Red Squirrel. Use the information to answer the questions. Remember to use formal language and technical vocabulary in your answers.

The Red Squirrel (*Sciurus vulgaris*) is a small, agile mammal indigenous to the forests of the United Kingdom. These creatures are primarily found in coniferous woodlands, where they spend much of their time high in the tree canopy. Unlike their larger grey cousins, red squirrels have distinctive tufted ears and a vibrant, reddish-brown coat. They are diurnal, meaning they are active during the day, searching for seeds, nuts, and berries to eat. Sadly, red squirrel populations have declined over the last century due to habitat loss and competition for food.

Word bank: habitat · nocturnal · classification · indigenous · coniferous · subheading · bullet points

1. What are the two physical features that distinguish the red squirrel from the grey squirrel? (2 marks)

2. According to the text, what does the word 'diurnal' mean? (1 mark)

3. Why is it important to use subheadings in a non-chronological report? Explain your reasoning. (2 marks)

4. Based on the passage, suggest one reason why the red squirrel population has declined. (1 mark)

5. If you were writing a report about the Red Squirrel, name two other subheadings you could include to help organise your information. (2 marks)

Draw: Draw a scientific sketch of a red squirrel in its natural habitat, labelling at least three key physical features mentioned in the text.



Extension challenge: Max the monkey wants to add a 'Fun Fact' box to this report. Write three short, interesting sentences about red squirrels that would fit perfectly in a fact box.