

# What have we got here?



## Squirrel Gliders

The large scattered eucalypt trees, native grasses and wildflowers of Box-Gum Grassy Woodlands provide homes for native animals, birds, reptiles and insects. One of the very special animals (or mammal) is the Squirrel Glider.

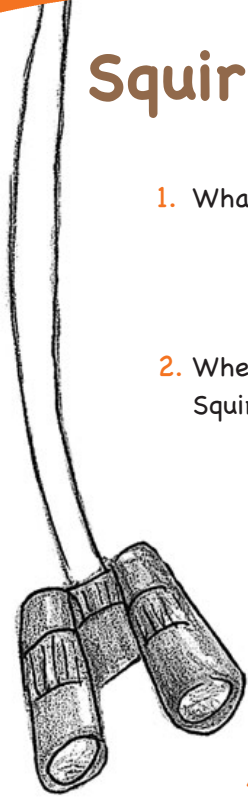
- Squirrel Gliders are medium-sized marsupials that have a distinct dark stripe running down between their eyes to their back.
- They have soft bushy tails and their fur is a blue-grey colour.
- Squirrel Gliders have a unique membrane between their front and back legs which spreads like a parachute when they leap from tree to tree.
- Squirrel Glider tails are used as rudders to guide their descent and help them navigate between trees and branches.
- They can glide up to 50 metres in one single leap!
- Squirrel Gliders are nocturnal animals which means that they are only awake during the night.
- They eat insects, eucalypt and wattle sap, nectar, pollen, seeds and invertebrates.
- They are classed as a vulnerable species in New South Wales under the Threatened Species Conservation Act 1995.
- Squirrel Gliders require trees with hollows for use as refuge and nesting sites.
- Hollows with tight-fitting entrances, in dead and live trees are used to keep larger animals out.
- Squirrel Gliders have two offspring between May and December.
- The Squirrel Gliders' biggest threat is the loss of habitat, mainly hollows, for them to nest in.
- Other threats include loss of food in the understorey, being preyed on by cats and foxes, and by getting caught in barb wire fences.
- We can help Squirrel Gliders by being responsible cat owners, protecting trees with hollows, keeping understorey shrubs for their food sources, and installing nest boxes.



# Activities



## Squirrel Gliders



1. What does nocturnal mean?
2. When is the breeding season for the Squirrel Glider?
3. What food does the Squirrel Glider eat?
4. How do Squirrel Gliders move from tree to tree?
5. Write a paragraph describing the Squirrel Glider.
6. Make a poster showing the threats to Squirrel Gliders and how people can help them.
7. Draw a picture of a suitable nest box that you can make for Squirrel Gliders. (Go to [www.wirraminna.org](http://www.wirraminna.org) - follow the prompts to Squirrel Glider Project)
8. Squirrel Gliders can glide 50 metres. Measure 50 meters out on the oval and count how many steps you take to walk it. Can you throw or kick a ball that far?
9. Make a paper glider and see how far it will fly.
10. What are some ways we can help the Squirrel Glider?