

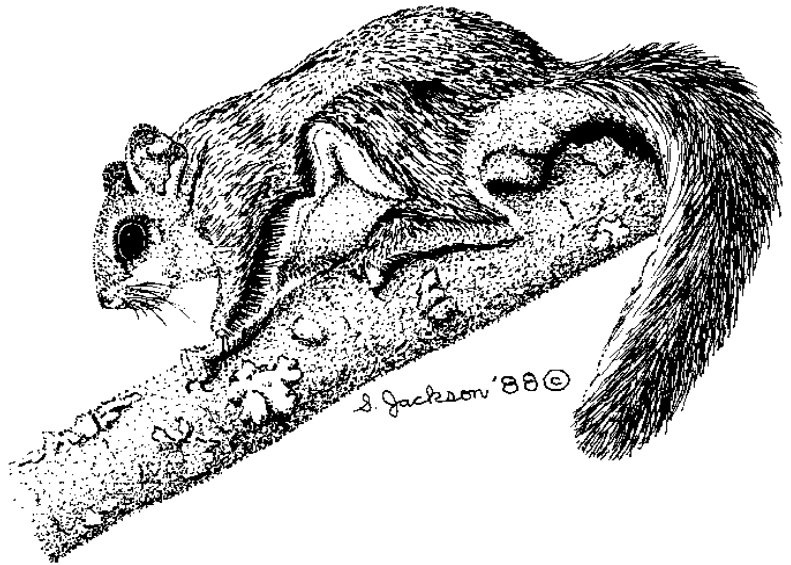
# Just for Kids

## Flying Squirrels

*Flying squirrels should really be called “gliding” squirrels because they cannot fly. They can glide through the air because they have extra, loose skin on the sides of their bodies called a patagium. Flying squirrels can change the direction they are gliding by using their tail as a rudder.*

### North and South

There are two types of flying squirrels in Connecticut: the southern flying squirrel and northern flying squirrel. Southern flying squirrels are quite common in Connecticut, though seldom seen. Northern flying squirrels are uncommon. Both have soft, gray-brown fur on the back and sides and white fur underneath their bodies. The northern flying squirrel, though, is a little darker and redder than the southern flying squirrel.



### Nuts!

*Flying squirrels are hard to see because they are out at night. You can find evidence, though, that they have been around. Look for nuts (acorns and hickory nuts) with one smooth-edged opening in the shell and the nut meat gone. That's the way flying squirrels open the nuts they eat. Other squirrels and chipmunks break the nuts into many pieces to get at the nut meat. Northern flying squirrels eat mostly mushrooms and lichens.*

### What big eyes you have!

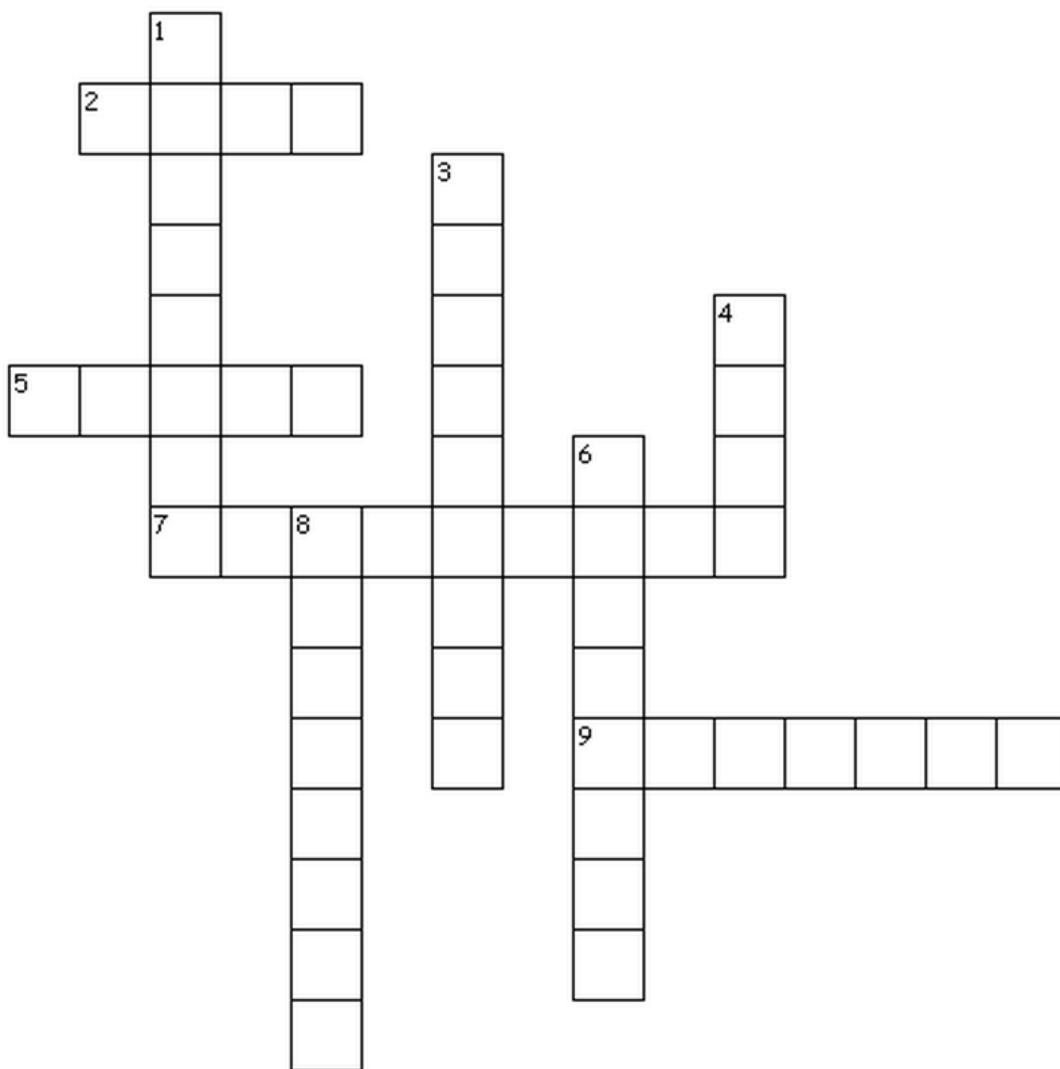
Flying squirrels have large, dark eyes. They need big eyes to help them see at night. Flying squirrels are *nocturnal* animals, which means they are active at night.

### Not in my house!

Flying squirrels sometimes enter homes through small openings leading to the attic. They like to nest where there is shelter. Usually, they nest in a tree hole or even a bird house, but sometimes they think our houses make the best squirrel homes! If people close up the holes in their house, then flying squirrels will stay out. Be sure there are no baby squirrels inside before the holes are patched up!

# Flying Squirrels

Flying squirrels are truly unique and fascinating animals. Read all about them on the front of this page, and use the information you learn to fill in the crossword below!



## Across

2. Flying squirrels can use their \_\_\_\_\_ as a rudder to change direction in the air
5. Flying squirrels do not actually fly, instead they \_\_\_\_\_ through the air
7. A type of fungus that flying squirrels feed on
9. A type of nut flying squirrels like to eat

## Down

1. Flying squirrels have extra loose skin on the sides of their bodies called the \_\_\_\_\_, which allows them to slowly move through the air
3. Flying squirrels are \_\_\_\_\_, which means they are most active at night
4. Flying squirrels have very large \_\_\_\_\_ to help them navigate through the trees in the dark.
6. The uncommon species of flying squirrel found in Connecticut that is darker and redder than the other species
8. The grayer and more common species of flying squirrel found in Connecticut