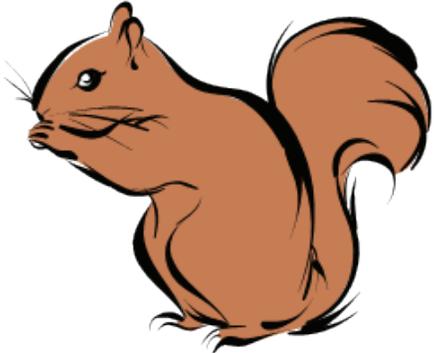# Animal Math

Activity 1 - Measuring with Squirrels

There are different units of measure used in mathematics to represent lengths. You probably know about centimetres, inches, meters, feet and kilometres. In this project you will use squirrels as units of measure to find out how long certain animals are in terms of squirrels.

A squirrel's body length is 20 cm on average, including the tail. We will represent the squirrel's body length by a small rectangle. For the purpose of this activity we will only worry about the length of the rectangle, not the width.

For this activity you will need: coloured paper, scissors, a ruler or measuring tape, string and a pencil.

Activity Instructions:

* Use a ruler and pencil to draw 35 identical rectangles (each of which will represent 1 squirrel). The rectangles should be about 3 cm x 1 cm.

* For each animal listed on the following page, cut strings equal to the body length of the animals. Lay the strings out on a flat surface and then put as many "squirrel" rectangles together in a line as you need to match the body length for each animal.

* For each animal's body length given in the chart below, figure out how many rectangles have to be put together in a line to equal the body length of the animal. In other words, measure the body length of each animal in squirrels. Fill in the missing column in the table below.

For example, a cat's length is equal to three squirrels.

Thread which equals the body length of a cat (60 cm)

Three squirrel rectangles lined up to make one cat

Can you believe THIS is math?

Animal Math

Activity 1 - Measuring with Squirrels
-continued

Animal	Body Length in cm	Body Length in Squirrels
Cat	60 cm	3
Rabbit	30 cm	
Siberian Tiger	320 cm	
Green Australian Turtle	100 cm	
World's Largest Grasshopper	25 cm	
Raccoon	80 cm	
Camel	200 cm	
Dolphin	300 cm	
Baboon	75 cm	3 3/4
Gray Wolf	160 cm	
Pygmy Rattlesnake	55 cm	
Tasmanian Devil	60 cm	

Activity Questions:

1. Which animal was longest in terms of squirrels?

2. Which animal was the shortest in terms of squirrels?

3. How many squirrels would you have to add to the raccoon length to make up the length of the camel?

4. How many squirrels are required for the lengths of the gray wolf, the rabbit and the dolphin all together?

Can you believe THIS is math?