

These questions are about Red Squirrels in the UK.

1 What is the name of the organisation that is helping to save red squirrels in the UK?

(1 mark)

2 Look at the section headed: *Why do red squirrels need protecting?*
Complete the table below with one piece of evidence from the text to support each statement.

Statement	Evidence
Red squirrels are at risk of disappearing from England.	
Grey squirrels have had a big impact on red squirrel populations.	

(1 mark)

3 "Time is really running out to save our red squirrels."

This suggests that...

Tick one.

red squirrels are easy to find ☐

conservation work has finished ☐

saving red squirrels is urgent ☐

squirrels are fast animals ☐

(1 mark)

4 Look at the section headed: *Can red squirrels and grey squirrels live together?*

Why can't red squirrels live near grey squirrels?

(1 mark)

5 Which section of the text explains how grey squirrels carry a dangerous virus?

Write the name of the section:

(1 mark)

6 Why is the squirrelpox virus especially dangerous for red squirrels?

(1 mark)

7 What happens to a red squirrel after it catches squirrelpox?

Tick one.

It becomes immune to future infections ☐

It dies quickly and painlessly ☐

It loses its fur but survives ☐

It struggles to feed and becomes very weak ☐

(1 mark)

8 Look at the section headed: *How are The Wildlife Trusts helping?*
Find and copy one word that shows The Wildlife Trusts are taking *planned* steps to protect red squirrels.

(1 mark)

9a Tick one box in each row to show whether the following actions help or do not help red squirrels:

Action	Helps	Does not help
Introducing grey squirrels to new woodlands		
Managing red squirrel habitats		
Letting grey and red squirrels share food areas		
Monitoring squirrel populations		

(1 mark)

9b Explain why grey squirrels are a problem for red squirrels.

(1mark)

10 Look at the description of squirrelpox in the text. These details suggest that the virus is...

Tick one.

easy for squirrels to survive ☐

painful and harmful ☐

useful for conservation ☐

more dangerous to grey squirrels ☐

(1 mark)

11 Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

Statement	True	False
Red squirrels have lived in the UK longer than grey squirrels.		
Grey squirrels are better at finding food than red squirrels.		
Grey squirrels can catch squirrelpox.		
Grey squirrels were brought to the UK from Asia.		

(2 marks)

12 Look at the whole text.

Complete the table below to show what is being done to help red squirrels:

Help for red squirrels	Help to manage grey squirrels

(2 marks)

13 Give one example of a place in the UK where red squirrels still live.

(1 mark)

14 Give two reasons why red squirrels are under threat in the UK.

1.

2.

(2 marks)

Mark Scheme:

1. *What is the name of the organisation that is helping to save red squirrels in the UK?*

Accept: *The Wildlife Trusts*

(1 mark)

2. *Complete the table with evidence:*

- Red squirrels are at risk of disappearing from England.
Without conservation management, red squirrels could become extinct in England in approximately 10 years.
 - Grey squirrels have had a big impact on red squirrel populations.
Grey squirrels have replaced red squirrels across almost all of England and Wales.
- (1 mark total)

3. *This suggests that...*

Tick: *saving red squirrels is urgent*

(1 mark)

4. *Why can't red squirrels live near grey squirrels?*

Accept any of:

- *Grey squirrels outcompete red squirrels for food and habitat.*
 - *Grey squirrels carry squirrelpox, which is deadly to red squirrels.*
- (1 mark)

5. *Which section explains the virus?*

Accept: *What is squirrelpox and what can be done about it?*

(1 mark)

6. *Why is squirrelpox especially dangerous?*

Key points to include (any one or both for full marks):

- *It is fatal to red squirrels.*
 - *Grey squirrels carry it without harm.*
- (1 mark)

7. *What happens after a red squirrel catches squirrelpox?*

Tick: *It struggles to feed and becomes very weak*

(1 mark)

8. Find and copy one word showing planned steps:

Accept: *targeted* or *co-ordinated*

(1 mark)

9a. Tick one box per row:

Action	Helps	Does not help
Introducing grey squirrels to new woodlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Managing red squirrel habitats	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Letting grey and red squirrels share food areas	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Monitoring squirrel populations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

1 mark for all correct)

9b Explanation:

Accept: *Grey squirrels compete with red squirrels and carry squirrelpox, which harms them.*

1 mark

10. *Squirrelpox* details suggest...

Tick: *painful* and *harmful*

(1 mark)

11. Tick true/false per row:

Statement	True	False
Red squirrels have lived in the UK longer than grey squirrels.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey squirrels are better at finding food than red squirrels.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Grey squirrels can catch squirrelpox.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Grey squirrels were brought to the UK from Asia.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

(2 marks for all correct, 1 mark for any two correct)

12. Complete the table:

Help for red squirrels (accept any 3 of):

- *Habitat management*
- *Education and awareness projects*
- *Monitoring populations*
- *Vaccination (in development)*

Help to manage grey squirrels (accept any 3 of):

- *Targeted grey squirrel control*
- *Keeping grey and red squirrels apart*
- *Co-ordinated efforts with conservation groups*

(2 marks: 1 per column)

13. Give one example of a place:

Accept any one of:

- *Anglesey*
- *Parts of northern England*
- *Scotland*

(1 mark)

14. Give two reasons red squirrels are under threat:

Accept any two:

- *Grey squirrels outcompete them*
- *Grey squirrels carry squirrelpox*
- *Habitat loss*
- *Woodlands becoming isolated*

(2 marks: 1 per correct reason)