

The Red Squirrel



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The red squirrel lives in
the temperate forest of
Europe.

The red squirrel lives in
the temperate forest of
Europe.

The red squirrel lives in
the temperate forest of
Europe.

The red squirrel lives in
the temperate forest of
Europe.

It is a bit red.

It is a bit red.

It is a bit red.

It is a bit red.

It eats nuts.

It eats nuts.

It eats nuts.

It eats nuts.

It sits up on its legs.

It sits up on its legs.

It sits up on its legs.

It sits up on its legs.

It has a nest.

It has a nest.

It has a nest.

It has a nest.

It can get mad.

It can get mad.

It can get mad.

It can get mad.

The Wild Boar



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The wild boar lives in the temperate forests of Europe. It grunts a lot and has tusks.

The wild boar lives in the temperate forests of Europe. It grunts a lot and has tusks.

The wild boar lives in the temperate forests of Europe. It grunts a lot and has tusks.

The wild boar lives in the temperate forests of Europe. It grunts a lot and has tusks.

It digs for plants. It sniffs for roots and bulbs.

It digs for plants. It sniffs for roots and bulbs.

It digs for plants. It sniffs for roots and bulbs.

It digs for plants. It sniffs for roots and bulbs.

If it gets hot, it will plop in
the mud and rest.

If it gets hot, it will plop in
the mud and rest.

If it gets hot, it will plop in
the mud and rest.

If it gets hot, it will plop in
the mud and rest.

It can swim and is swift on land.

It can swim and is swift on land.

It can swim and is swift on land.

It can swim and is swift on land.

Piglets get milk from the
mom. The mom helps
them get plump.

Piglets get milk from the
mom. The mom helps
them get plump.

Piglets get milk from the
mom. The mom helps
them get plump.

Piglets get milk from the
mom. The mom helps
them get plump.

To get big, piglets must dig up bugs and grubs by logs and stumps.

To get big, piglets must dig up bugs and grubs by logs and stumps.

To get big, piglets must dig up bugs and grubs by logs and stumps.

To get big, piglets must dig up bugs and grubs by logs and stumps.

The Polecat



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The polecat dwells in the wetlands of Europe.

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It has short legs, a thick neck, and a black bandit mask.

It has short legs, a thick neck, and a black bandit mask.

It has short legs, a thick neck, and a black bandit mask.

It has short legs, a thick neck, and a black bandit mask.

It smells a frog! It will track
it across grass and moss to
catch it.

It smells a frog! It will track
it across grass and moss to
catch it.

It smells a frog! It will track
it across grass and moss to
catch it.

It smells a frog! It will track
it across grass and moss to
catch it.

If it wants to be still or rest,
it has a bunch of dens in
this marsh.

If it wants to be still or rest,
it has a bunch of dens in
this marsh.

If it wants to be still or rest,
it has a bunch of dens in
this marsh.

If it wants to be still or rest,
it has a bunch of dens in
this marsh.

It swims well. It can roll and splash and fetch fish.

It swims well. It can roll and splash and fetch fish.

It swims well. It can roll and splash and fetch fish.

It swims well. It can roll and splash and fetch fish.

It will snatch eggs, chicks,
or hens if it can.

It will snatch eggs, chicks,
or hens if it can.

It will snatch eggs, chicks,
or hens if it can.

It will snatch eggs, chicks,
or hens if it can.

The Red Deer



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It is spring and red deer
are hiding among the tree
trunks in the temperate
forest of Europe.

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forest of Europe.

A deer is grazing. It is nibbling on twigs and budding plants.

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A deer is grazing. It is nibbling on twigs and budding plants.

A deer is grazing. It is nibbling on twigs and budding plants.

A mom, called a hind, is nursing her young.

A mom, called a hind, is nursing her young.

A mom, called a hind, is nursing her young.

A mom, called a hind, is nursing her young.

A stag is listening for danger.

A stag is listening for danger.

A stag is listening for danger.

A stag is listening for danger.

A man is hunting the
strong stag.

A man is hunting the
strong stag.

A man is hunting the
strong stag.

A man is hunting the
strong stag.

The red deer's habitat is shrinking.

The red deer's habitat is shrinking.

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The red deer's habitat is shrinking.

The Alpine Ibex



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The alpine ibex lives in the mountains of Europe.

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The males live together.
They compete for a
chance to prove how big
and strong they are.

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chance to prove how big
and strong they are.

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chance to prove how big
and strong they are.

The males live together.
They compete for a
chance to prove how big
and strong they are.

Sometimes, female ibex live together. They graze on the slopes.

Sometimes, female ibex live together. They graze on the slopes.

Sometimes, female ibex live together. They graze on the slopes.

Sometimes, female ibex live together. They graze on the slopes.

A kid is the name of an
ibex babe. It is cute.

A kid is the name of an
ibex babe. It is cute.

A kid is the name of an
ibex babe. It is cute.

A kid is the name of an
ibex babe. It is cute.

The kids like to jump on
the rocks and lope on the
mountainside.

The kids like to jump on
the rocks and lope on the
mountainside.

The kids like to jump on
the rocks and lope on the
mountainside.

The kids like to jump on
the rocks and lope on the
mountainside.

As the day fades, the females and babes escape to the pines to hide and be safe.

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The Diving Bell Spider



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In the wetlands of Europe,
in the quiet lakes, ponds,
and streams, the diving
bell spider spins its web in
secret below the surface
of the water.

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In the wetlands of Europe,
in the quiet lakes, ponds,
and streams, the diving
bell spider spins its web in
secret below the surface
of the water.

It spreads its sticky, silky threads between the shoots and leaves of aquatic plants.

It spreads its sticky, silky threads between the shoots and leaves of aquatic plants.

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It spreads its sticky, silky threads between the shoots and leaves of aquatic plants.

It goes to the surface for air and brings it back. The air is trapped on the hairs of its belly and legs.

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The air floats up and the web grows into the shape of a bell. The spider relies on this air for days.

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If it is hungry, it will dart out of its web to feast on unlucky mosquito larvae or water fleas.

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The females unveil new large webs once they mate. These big webs shield the thirty to seventy eggs they lay.

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The Wood Grouse



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A female wood grouse lurks in a temperate forest of Europe. She is hard to see. She blends in well with pale brown feathers.

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A female wood grouse lurks in a temperate forest of Europe. She is hard to see. She blends in well with pale brown feathers.

She is rather big for a bird but much smaller than a male. He has more color. His feathers are dark with shiny green ones covering his chest.

She is rather big for a bird but much smaller than a male. He has more color. His feathers are dark with shiny green ones covering his chest.

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All wood grouse have big bodies and feathered legs. They have short rounded wings. They fly in short bursts in the open spaces of the old pine forest.

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They are herbivores.
In summer, they enjoy
buds, leaves, berries, and
grasses. In winter, they eat
conifer needles.

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At dawn, the male starts to court the hen. He perches on a tall tree's branch, puffs his feathers, and points his beak toward to the sky. He makes loud sounds as a mating song.

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After they mate, the hen forms a nest on the ground under the cover of a young tree's low branches. She warms the eggs and hardly leaves the nest until the chicks hatch.

After they mate, the hen forms a nest on the ground under the cover of a young tree's low branches. She warms the eggs and hardly leaves the nest until the chicks hatch.

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Mystery in the Alps



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In the mountains of Europe, a little town is nestled in a valley. When some people from town hiked up the mountain, they stumbled across something that puzzled them.

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The mountain base has pine forest. As you climb higher, the trees thin. Only small trees grow where there are scattered pockets of soil. Many of these trees had been knocked over!

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The mountain base has pine forest. As you climb higher, the trees thin. Only small trees grow where there are scattered pockets of soil. Many of these trees had been knocked over!

The hikers looked closely. The trees had not been whacked or cut. There were no signs of a knife or ax, but the bark at the base was gone. They were befuddled.

The hikers looked closely. The trees had not been whacked or cut. There were no signs of a knife or ax, but the bark at the base was gone. They were befuddled.

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The people in the town wrestled with the riddle of what might be felling the trees. A little girl thought a fairy woodsman chopped them down to make fairy houses.

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A woman wanted to untangle the mystery. She climbed up the mountain and huddled near some small trees. She returned each day determined to catch sight of what was wrecking the trees.

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A bright white alpine hare appeared. Over days, it nibbled away all of the twigs and low limbs of a little tree. It began to whittle away the bark with its teeth. That tree would fall and, then, the hare could eat it all!

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The Hedgehog



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Much of the temperate forest of Europe has been cleared to make way for farms and villages. There is little forest left here. It would be good for the native animals to live in the woods, but there are none nearby.

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A hedgehog finds a decent place under the cover of a hedge that acts as a fence between two farms. It pulls together a cozy nest from grass, moss, and leaves.

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At dusk, the hedgehog trudges in the direction of the MacMillan farm. It is looking for food and there are probably many tasty options in their garden.

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The garden was recently plowed. The hedgehog can smell the freshly turned soil. It is easy to dig up centipedes and worms from the soft ridges of dirt with its snout.

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Chasing fireflies, the MacMillan children chance upon the hedgehog at the garden's edge. Tommy, the oldest, comes closer to investigate. The hedgehog does not budge. It is not fearful. It is not in danger.

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Tommy finds a stick and gives the hedgehog a poke. In one swift motion, it curls into a ball. In this position, all its sharp spines face outward. The wise children decide to leave it alone.

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