

Chipmunks

Chipmunks are the smallest members of the squirrel family. They are omnivores which means they eat both plants and animals. They eat seeds, fruits, nuts and buds. They also eat insects, small frogs, worms, and bird eggs. Chipmunks have large eyes, stripes, and bushy tails. They have chubby cheeks which allow them to carry lots of food to their homes. Chipmunks can live in many different environments, including alpine forests and shrubby deserts. Some chipmunks live in burrows and some live in nests, logs, or bushes.



Quick facts

Type: Mammal

Diet: Omnivore

Size: 10 - 28 cm

The smallest species of chipmunk (least chipmunk) can grow up to 21 cm. The largest species of chipmunk (Eastern chipmunk) can grow up to 28 cm. Eastern chipmunks hibernate in the winter, while western chipmunks do not.

In the wild chipmunks typically live about three to four years. In captivity they may live up to nine years.

Questions

1. What is an omnivore? _____
2. Write down **four** facts about chipmunks that you learned from this article.

3. What is the largest species of chipmunk?
 - a. Western chipmunk
 - b. Eastern chipmunk
 - c. Least chipmunk
 - d. Red-tailed chipmunk