

# Millipede

I am long and slow moving, with a rounded streamlined body covered with hardened plates (exoskeleton) for burrowing.

I have two pairs of legs on each body segment.

I use my antennae to feel, smell and taste - they are important as I am blind.

I live outdoors in moist, dark, protected areas such as under bark, logs, leaves or rocks. I am most active at night.

I am a herbivore eating mostly decaying plants.

When I hatched out of my egg I had just 6 body segments and 3 pairs of legs. Each time I moult I add more body segments and legs. Because I am vulnerable to predators when I moult, I usually do so in an underground chamber, where I am hidden and protected.

I can't outrun my predators. Instead, when I feel I am in danger, I coil my body into a tight spiral. This protects my softer belly.

Flat backed millipede



Snake millipede



# Grey Squirrel

My thick fur keeps me warm.

My predators include birds of prey, but cars are my biggest source of danger.

I need somewhere to build my drey, which is my large untidy looking nest. The treetops or hollow tree trunks are best. I need plenty of moss, thistledown, dried grass, and feathers to line my drey.

I don't hibernate but may stay in my drey for several days when the weather is particularly cold.

I eat hazelnuts, acorns, beech mast, tree bark, fungi, buds, leaves, shoots, flowers and sometimes I will raid birds' nests for eggs and young.

I need to collect nuts and seeds in the autumn and bury them in many scattered hiding places or "caches" around the wood ready for winter. I have a good memory for where they are hidden and a very acute sense of smell; these help me to find the caches even weeks or months later.



## Blackbird

I am an omnivore eating insects, worms, slugs, seed, fruit and berries and even occasionally small amphibians and lizards. I use my strong beak to pull out insects and caterpillars hidden in the soil or search for food below leaf litter and inside the trees.

In spring we build a cup-shaped nest in trees or bushes. It takes us about 11-14 days to build our nest with males collecting twigs, bark, mud and leaves, while females use them to construct the nest. The female stays on the nest incubating the eggs, while the male brings her food (this lasts for about 17 days). Both parents then help to feed the chicks.

We are equally at home making our nest in in a town park or garden as in a remote wood.

Our natural enemies are foxes and large birds of prey, but our biggest danger comes from cats and cars.

We are territorial during the mating season and protect our territory from other pairs of blackbirds.



male blackbird



female blackbird

## Magpie

I am an omnivore eating fruits, nuts, seeds, insects, eggs, small mammals and reptiles. In spring I must find plenty of food for my young, so I raid the nests of small birds for eggs and young. I also eat any animals which have been killed on roads - this meat is called carrion.

When I find a mate we stay within our territory and do not migrate, staying within 10km of where I hatched.

We usually nest in trees, but can build our nest on the ground if there are no trees.

In spring I build my nest and need plenty of twigs. My nest often has a roof and may have two entrances. Up to 8 eggs are laid and need to be kept warm (incubated) for 3 weeks without predators finding them.

Our main predators are dogs, foxes and cats, but especially humans. We are highly intelligent birds and are often able to sense approaching danger relatively quickly. We become secretive when we feel in danger.

I don't like to fly a long way and stay close to cover, hiding in trees and thick bushes to hide from predators and to catch my prey.

