Project WildLIVE - Flying Squirrel Project
Educator Resource Sheet

Post-video Activity suggestion:

Have your students make their own "animal pulley trap" in their home. Examples of some easy materials that can be used: empty tissue boxes, cereal boxes, etc. tied up with string, yarn, shoelaces, etc. You can choose whether or not you want to set a specific height requirement for the trap (ex: at least 6 ft off the ground). At the end, have students take a photo of their creation and share it with each other. Students can make it as simple or as complex as they'd like! (see photo example to the right for a very simple idea)

If you want to expand this activity into a larger assignment, ask each student to choose (or assign them) a specific Wisconsin animal they are aiming to "trap". Have students research about their animal: the methods in which it is safely trapped in wildlife research, what kind of bait is used, the location of traps, why this animal is trapped for conservation / research purposes, what data is usually collected from the animal, and any other information you want students to research about their species. They can turn this in as a separate assignment or present what they've learned to the rest of the class.

Make *sure* to tell your students that they should never attempt to capture a wild animal or pet with their "trap" or use their contraption outdoors.

How your students can get involved at home:

Dead trees, called ***snags***, are important habitat for flying squirrels. Snags often have crevices, hollow branches, and holes in the trunk that give shelter to flying squirrels. If it's safe, allow snags to remain on your property instead of cutting them down. Another way to help flying squirrels is to keep pet cats indoors. Outdoor cats are significant predators to flying squirrels and songbirds.

Snapshot Wisconsin is a citizen science project partnership to monitor wildlife year-round, using a statewide network of trail cameras. The project provides data needed for wildlife management decision support. It is also a unique opportunity for individuals, families and students to get involved in monitoring the state's valuable natural resources. You can volunteer to classify trail camera photos, explore photos already taken, or apply to host a wildlife trail camera on your property. There are also helpful resources for teachers who are interested in incorporating *Snapshot Wisconsin* into their classroom. The following is a link to the *Snapshot Wisconsin* website: https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/research/projects/snapshot .

Why is this research important?

      Monitoring wildlife populations is essential to the conservation of wildlife species, ecosystems, and to keeping human populations safe. In wildlife monitoring, estimating population sizes and locations are vital to understanding the trends in the species. Often, some sort of tracking system is used to capture and mark certain individuals and the recapture rate of these tagged individuals at a later time can greatly aid in estimating population sizes, migration patterns, and other important trends. Wildlife researches do not capture wildlife for no reason, as it is an unnecessary stress for the animal; every piece of data collected from a wild animal is collected for a reason, and a mark (tag, band, etc) is placed on animals only when there is adequate reason to do so.

Resources for further learning:

https://www.eekwi.org/animals/mammals/flying-squirrel

http://animalia.bio/southern-flying-squirrel

https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Mammals/Flying-Squirrels

https://dnr.wi.gov/files/PDF/pubs/er/ER0678.pdf

How to build a flying squirrel box:
https://cwf-fcf.org/en/resources/DIY/outside/building-a-flying-squirrel.html