What About Those Black Squirrels?

Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the article and answer ALL of the questions.

1. How did the black squirrels get to Ft. Mitchell?
2. What is the scientific name of the black squirrels?
3. Are they a different species than Eastern Grey Squirrels?
4. What causes the difference in coloration in the black squirrels?
5. Roughly how many squirrels nationwide are of the black, mutant variety?
6. Has the Eastern Grey Squirrel ALWAYS been grey?
7. When were the majority of squirrels black?
8. Name TWO reasons why black fur may have benefitted squirrels more so than grey fur.
9. Why did the black coloration benefit the squirrels in the earlier forest of the 1600 and 1700’s?
10. What may have led to the change in color of the grey squirrel population from a majority of black squirrels to a majority of grey phase squirrels?
11. Name TWO reasons why squirrels were hunted to vigorously.
12. What was the incentive to hunt squirrels?
13. How was the change in squirrel fur color and example of natural selection?
14. How has the attitude toward black squirrels changed today?
15. Why would you not want to harm a squirrel in Marysville , Kansas?
16. Why would you want to be careful driving in Olney, IL?