

## **2. How the Squirrel Got its Stripes**

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इस काल्पनिक कथा में गिलहरी को धारियाँ कैसे मिली यह बताया गया है।

### **Lesson summary**

This is a short story from the Ramayana. It tells us how the squirrel got the stripes on its body. Once, Lord Rama wanted to cross the sea. He asked his army of monkeys to build a bridge. A small squirrel heard about it. He loved Lord Rama very much. So he wanted to help. He could carry only small pebbles in his mouth. But he kept dropping them into the sea.

One day, he came in the way of a big monkey carrying a big stone. The monkey had to move to one side to save the squirrel. While doing that he almost fell down. The monkey was very angry with the squirrel. He told the squirrel that his efforts of dropping small stones were useless. But the squirrel continued his work. One day another monkey lifted the squirrel in his hands and threw him away. The squirrel fell into Lord Rama's hands. Lord Rama was impressed by squirrel's love for him. He stroked him gently on the back. The loving strokes of fingers left permanent marks on the squirrel's body. They are the stripes.