
A close-up photograph of a chipmunk named Fiston. The chipmunk has brown and white fur with dark stripes on its back. It is sitting on the ground, surrounded by dry leaves and twigs. It is holding a nut in its paws and looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. The background is a blurred forest floor.


Hello! My name is Fiston. I'm going to reveal some secrets about chipmunks to you. Come and discover our fascinating story.





Because of the cute "chip-chip" sound we make, they call us *chipmunks* in English. Our little voices are so high-pitched that sometimes people think we're birds!



A close-up photograph of a chipmunk standing upright in a field of green grass. The chipmunk has brown and white fur with dark stripes on its back. It is looking directly at the camera with its small black eyes. The background is a soft-focus green field.

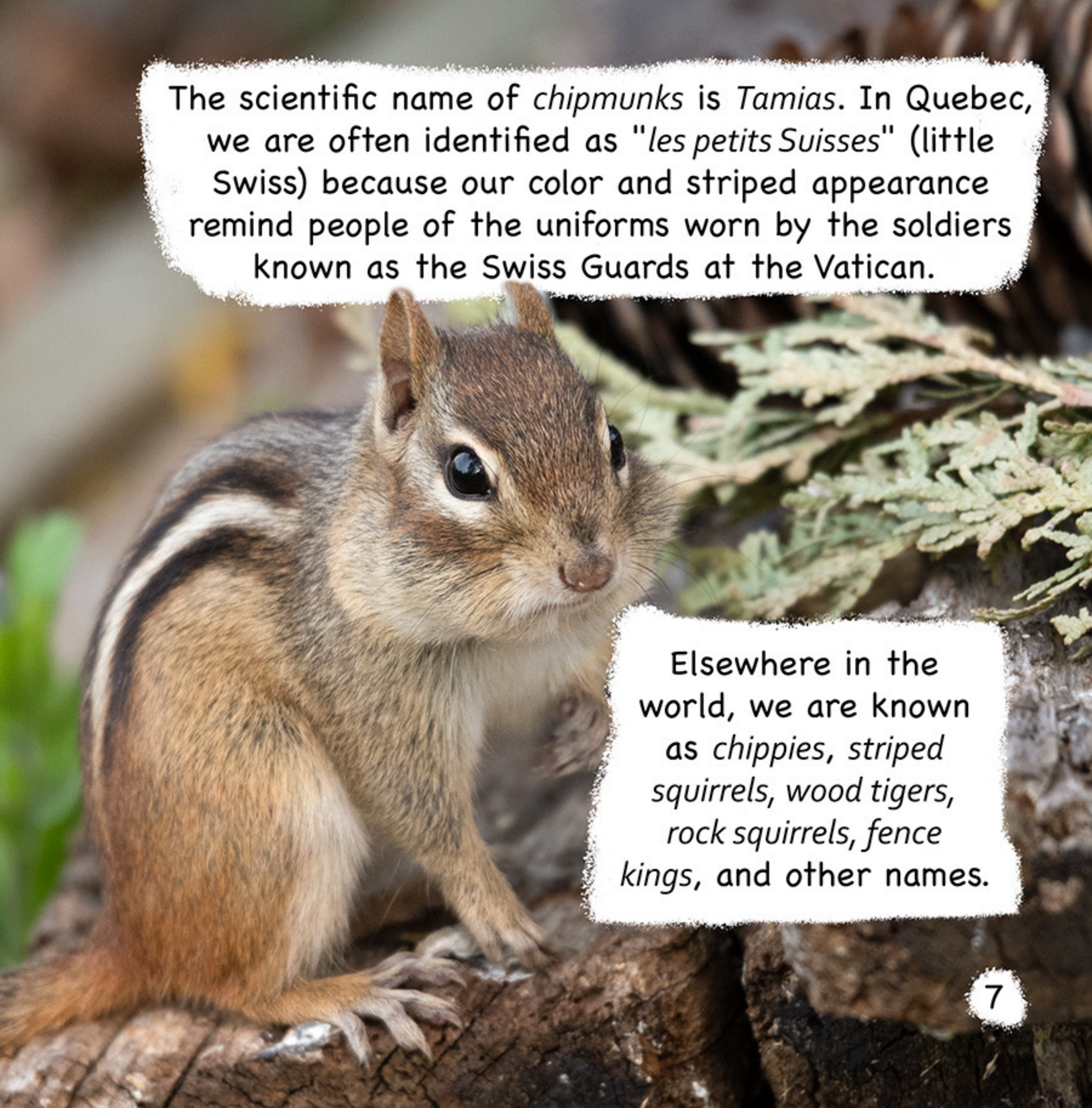
We belong to the same family as squirrels and groundhogs! We are called *Sciuridae*. We live in burrows dug into the ground. That's why we are sometimes called *ground squirrels*.



Chipmunks are the smallest members of the squirrel family in North America. But there are smaller squirrels in other parts of the world, like the *African pygmy squirrel (Myosciurus Pumilio)* and the *dwarf palm squirrel (Prosciurillus Abstrusus)* in Indonesia.





A close-up photograph of a chipmunk sitting on a weathered log. The chipmunk has brown fur with several dark stripes running down its back and sides. It has large, dark eyes and a small, pinkish nose. The background is slightly blurred, showing some green foliage and more of the log.

The scientific name of *chipmunks* is *Tamias*. In Quebec, we are often identified as "*les petits Suisses*" (little Swiss) because our color and striped appearance remind people of the uniforms worn by the soldiers known as the Swiss Guards at the Vatican.

Elsewhere in the world, we are known as *chippies*, *striped squirrels*, *wood tigers*, *rock squirrels*, *fence kings*, and other names.