

No. 5837

Animal Track Rubbing Plates

Track down the footprints of your favorite creatures!

Terrific Tracks rubbing plates are an excellent tool for learning about animal tracks. Set a rubbing plate down on a flat surface. Tip: Tape down the corners to prevent slips while rubbing. Lay a sheet of white or colored paper on top of the plate and rub with a pencil crayon, piece of chalk or pastel. Try finger painting over top for a different result. Once you have covered the entire surface of the plate with paint, lay a sheet over top, press down and pull off.

Create a background for your rubbings! Rub several of your favorite footprints onto a page and draw or paint a background. Draw the animal's nest, lair or burrow with tracks leading up to it. Tip: Add texture to your picture by gluing sand, grass or twigs to the paper.

Research your rubbings! Choose footprints of the animals that interest you the most, and learn more about them. Look in

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books at your local library to find out what the animal eats and where it lives. Write up some interesting facts and add them to your picture!

Create your own wacky walking styles! Look at your track rubbings to see how each animal walks or runs. Try to follow in their footsteps by imitating their steps or make up your own!

Make a tracking game! Rub several different kinds of tracks along with the animal and cut them out carefully. You can play indoors or outdoors. Lay out the footprints in a winding path that leads to the animal. Invite some friends over to follow the tracks and see if they can guess what animal made them. Use footprints for treasure hunts!

Cover gifts with footprint wrapping paper! Make cards with tracks leading to the message! Form a collage of assorted footprints and make a poster!

Deer: You don't have to go far to find deer tracks, because deer often live close to civilization! When a deer is walking, the tracks remain close together, but when a deer is bounding, their hoofs spread wide apart.

Weasel: When running, the weasel often leaves only two prints at a time instead of four, because its back paws land in the tracks made by the front paws.

Beaver: This creature cuts down trees and builds dams with great skill! Beaver tracks are distinctive because of the webbed hind foot.

Bobcat: These tracks are similar to the tracks of a house cat, but much larger. Some grow a heavy fur over their toe-pads in winter.

Rabbit: Rabbit tracks are easy to find in swamp areas. They live in bushy growth for protection.

Opossum: A large thumb helps the animal to grasp and climb. The opossum is a rare North American marsupial.

Otter: Otters live near rivers and streams, where their tracks are mostly found.

Mountain Lion: One of the larger members of the cat family, their tracks are large. They have retractable claws, which they sharpen on trees.

Squirrel: Squirrels like to live in forests, where they eat cones of evergreen trees. Their tracks can be found leading from tree to tree.

Skunk: Skunks walk on the soles of their feet instead of their toes. They are clumsy when walking and running not a graceful animal!

Raccoon: Raccoons have five toes, and walk mainly on the soles of their feet.

Duck: The webbed foot with tiny claws is characteristic of many types of ducks. These tracks will nearly always be found near water.

Turkey: Domestic turkeys tend to be somewhat short and stout, wild turkeys are tall and long-legged. Each turkey has three-toed feet.

Timber Wolf: A wolf usually places its hind foot in the track left by the front foot, unlike a dog's tracks that do not overlap.

Dog: Dogs are usually domestic animals, kept as pets. They walk on the pads of their feet.

Cat: The smallest member of the cat family. A cat's retractable claws make it easier to walk, so the claws do not show in the tracks.

