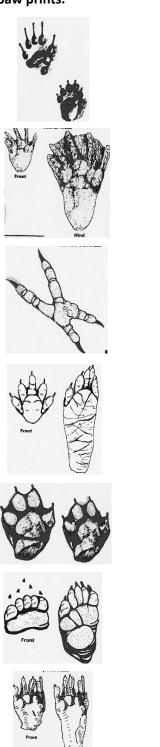
Discovering STEM Program

Animal Tracks Match-Up

Each animal that lives in our forest and national parks has a unique set of tracts all their own. As you hike or camp with your family and friends, you might come across some of these tracks. Would you be able to tell which belong to the animals below?

Match the animal paw prints.



Great Horned Owl

Skunk

Gray Squirrel

Badger

Beaver

Raccoon

Red Fox

Turn page over for more!

Which Animal from the matching game would be a predator to one of the other animals? Which would be prey? Why would the prey not want the predator to see its tracks?					



Discovering STEM Program

Who Made That Track?

For each set of tracks, please answer the following questions:

1. What animals made the tracks?

3. Which animals were being preyed upon or pursued by a predator? Who was the predator and who was the prey?

4. Where were the other animals headed? Why?

O ...

-O

Animal	Block Number	
Badger - front	1	
Badger - hind	2	
Beaver - front	3	
Beaver - hind	4	
Chipmunk	5	
Cottontail Rabbit -		
front	6	
Cottontail Rabbit -		
hind	7	
Coyote - front	8	
Coyote - hind	9	
Gray Squirrel - front	10	
Gray Squirrel - hind	11	
Great Homed Owl	12	
Mallard Duck	13	
Meadow Mouse	14	
Muskrat - front	15	
Muskrat - hind	16	
Oppossum - front	17	
Oppossum - hind	18	
Quail	19	
Raccoon - front	20	
Raccoon - hind	21	
Red Fox - front	22	
Red Fox - hind	23	
Stripped Skunk - front	24	
Stripped Skunk - hind	25	
White-Tailed Deer -		
front	26	
White-Tailed Deer -		
hind	27	
Wood Rat	28	

Elementary Science Olympiad Discovery Program Activity



Who Made That Track? Answer Sheet

For each set of tracks, please answer the following questions:

1. What animals made the tracks?

Cottontail Rabbit, Mallard Duck, Whitetail Deer, Great Horned Owl, Meadow Mouse, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red Fox, Squirrel.

3. Which animals were being preyed upon or pursued by a predator? Who was the predator and who was the prey?

The rabbit was pursued by the fox. The rabbit ran under some brush to hide and the fox walked around but gave up and left. A while after the fox left, the rabbit then hopped off.

The meadow mouse was walking along when a Great Horned Owl swooped down and grabbed it. (Notice the wing marks in the snow).

4. Where were the other animals headed? Why?

The deer stopped at the edge of the cloth to eat from a bush. It then crossed the stream.

The duck was swimming down the stream and got out to walk on land to get around the rocks.

The muskrat was swimming in the stream and got out and walked away.

The squirrel hopped up to a tree and climbed it.

The raccoon came to the stream, washed his hands and walked away.



Elementary Science Olympiad Discovery Program Activity

Who Made That Track? Answer Sheet

For each set of tracks, please answer the following questions:

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Cottontail Rabbit, Mallard Duck, Whitetail Deer, Great Horned Owl, Meadow Mouse, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red Fox, Squirrel.

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The rabbit was pursued by the fox. The rabbit ran under some brush to hide and the fox walked around but gave up and left. A while after the fox left, the rabbit then hopped off.

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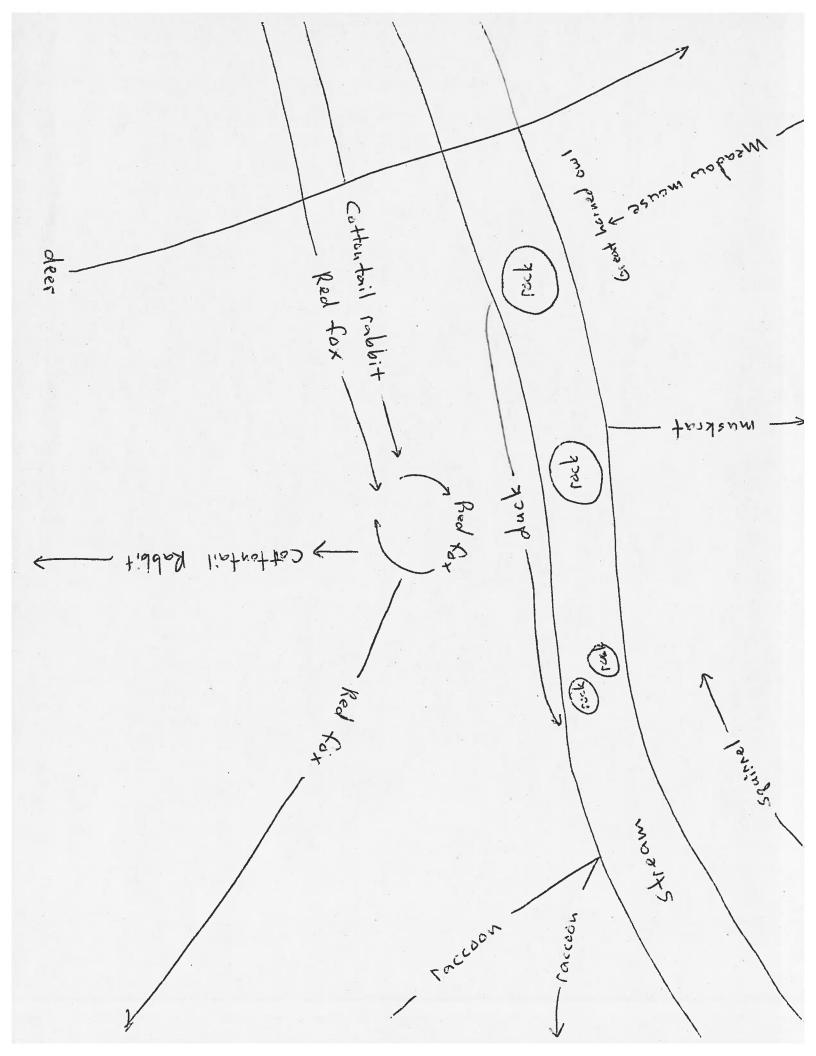
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Discovering STEM Program

Animal Track Tarp

Objective: Students will infer animal behavior by examining tracks on a tarp.

Students may work in groups of two or larger to examine tracks made on a canvas cloth. Students should try to guess what animals made the tracks, and what their behavior was that caused them to travel through that area.

Please make sure that students do not stop on the canvas. It is recommended that the canvas is roped off to protect it.

These instructions should be read to the students:

"This is a scene that has taken place in a local woodland when snow was on the ground. Various animals have come to the stream. Your job is to be detectives and determine which animals made the tracks, why they came to that area, and what they did as they traveled across the area.

Things to know:

The stream is drawn in but not any trees, bushes, dens, brushpiles, or other natural objects found in the woods. Keep in mind that these objects are going to affect the animal behavior and you need to infer where these objects are and how they affected the track pattern."

Using a tracks guide, students will determine which animals made the tracks on their cloth. They will also need to answer the questions on the worksheet that go along with the tracks they are examining. In doing so, they will infer whether the animal was traveling alone, was being preyed upon, was acting as a predator, and where the animal was headed.

A notebook with pictures of the animals, their track and track pattern, and a drawing of their scat is included for reference. (A "scat" is the excrement of an animal.)

ANSWER KEY for tarp and worksheet

1. What animals made the tracks?

<u>Cottontail Rabbit, Mallard Duck, Whitetail Deer, Great Horned Owl, Meadow Mouse, Muskrat, Raccoon, Red</u> Fox, Squirrel.

2. Which animals were being preyed upon or pursued by a predator? Who was the predator and who was the prey?

The rabbit was pursued by the fox. The rabbit ran under some brush to hide and the fox walked around but gave up and left. A while after the fox left, the rabbit then hopped off. (Notice the spacing of the tracks. The rabbit tracks are further apart as it runs, closer together as it hops away after the fox leaves. Fox tracks look similar to other canines but the footprints are always in a line (as opposed to side to side like most mammals). The meadow mouse was walking along when a Great Horned Owl swooped down and grabbed him. (Notice the wing marks in the snow.)

3. Where are the other animals headed?

The deer stopped at the edge of the cloth to eat from a bush. It then crossed the stream.

The duck was swimming down the stream and got out to walk on land to get around the rocks.

The muskrat was swimming in the stream and got out and walked away.

The squirrel hopped up to a tree and climbed it.

The raccoon came to the stream, washed his hands and walked away.

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

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 three-toed feet. 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.

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!

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.

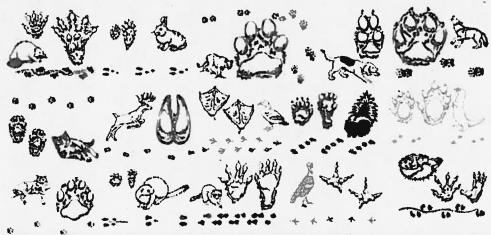
Duck: The webbed foot with tiny claws in characteristic of many types of ducks. These tracks will nearly always be found near water.

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 it 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.



Badger



Badger Track





Badger Scat



Hind

Badger Track







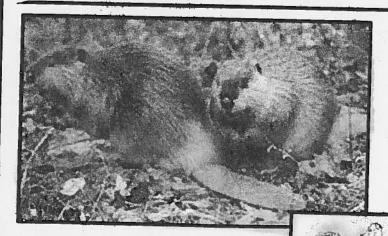








Beaver



Front

Beaver Track



Hind

Beaver Scat

Beaver Track Pattern















Wood Rat





Wood Rat Scat **Wood Rat Track**



Front



Hind

Wood Rat Track Pattern







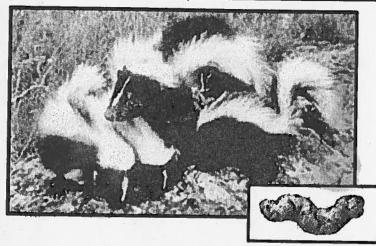








Striped Skunk



Skunk Scat

Skunk Track



Front



Hind

Skunk Track Pattern



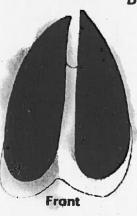




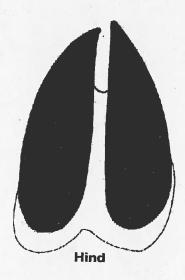
White-Tailed Deer



Deer Scat



Deer Track



44 44





A A

Deer Pronk

4

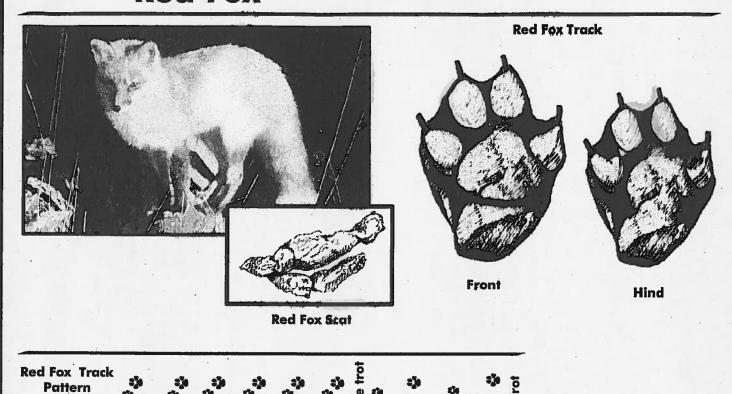
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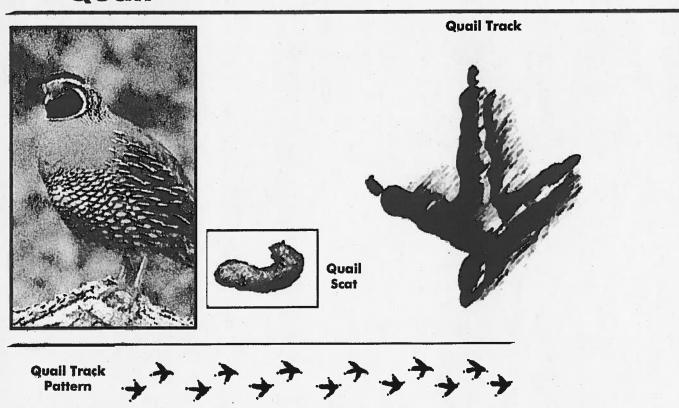
44

ADeer Gallop

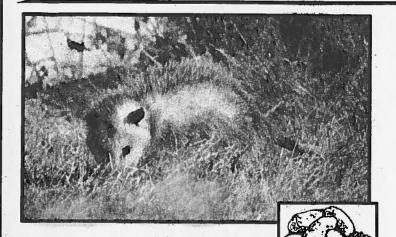
Red Fox



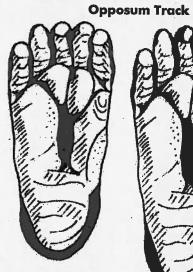
Quail



Oppossum



Opposum Scat



Front



Hind

Opposum Track Pattern







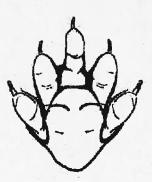


Raccoon



Raccoon Scat

Raccoon Track



Front

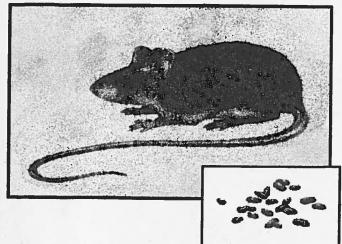


Hind



Meadow Mouse

Meadow Mouse Track

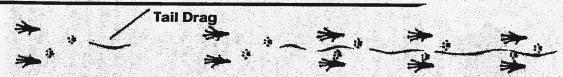








Meadow Mouse Track



Muskrat



Muskrat Scat





Muskrat Track







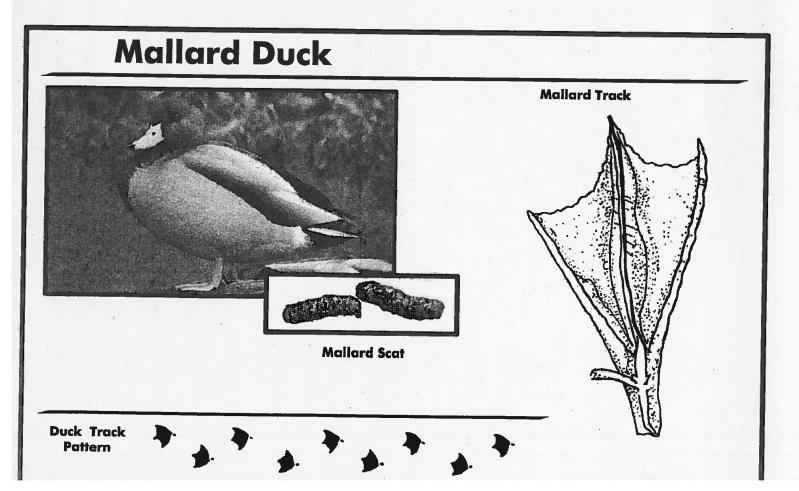


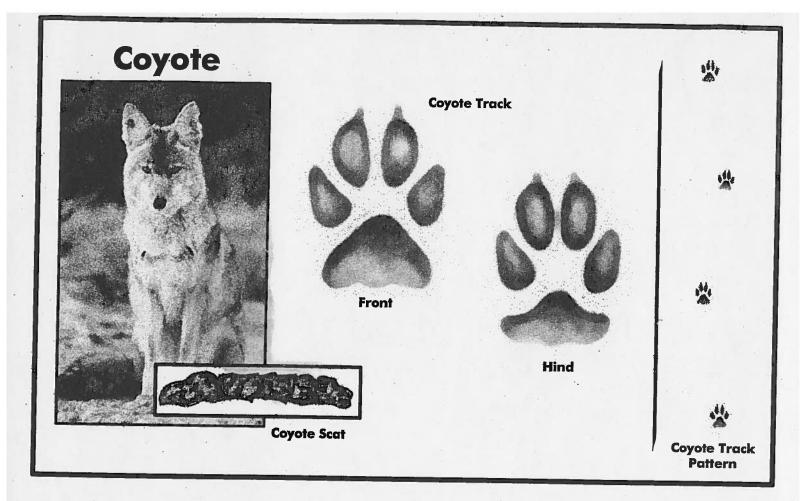


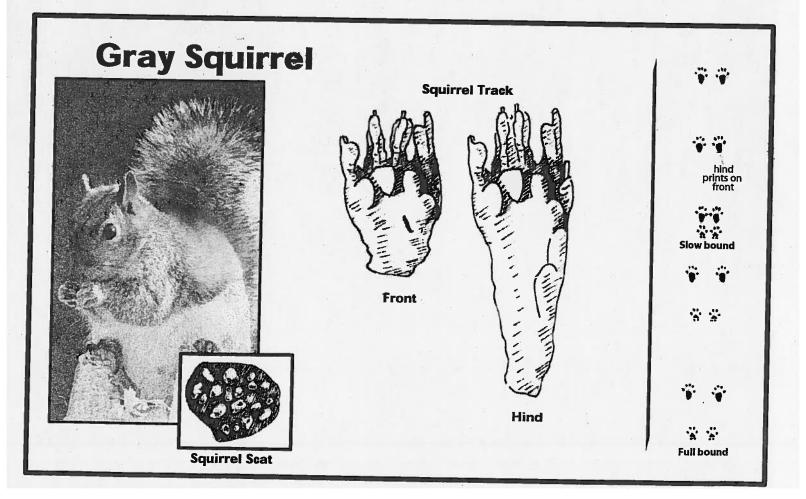
Great Horned Owl Great Horned Owl Track



Cough Pellet







Chipmunk



Chipmunk Track



Chipmunk Scat

Chipmunk Track Pattern











Cottontail



Cottontail Scat





Front



Cottontail Track **Pattern**









Badger



Badger Track





Badger Scat



Hind

Badger Track







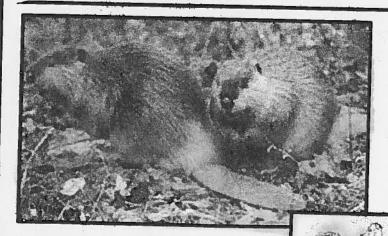








Beaver



Front

Beaver Track



Hind

Beaver Scat

Beaver Track Pattern















Chipmunk



Chipmunk Track



Chipmunk Scat

Chipmunk Track Pattern











Cottontail



Cottontail Scat





Front



Cottontail Track **Pattern**







