

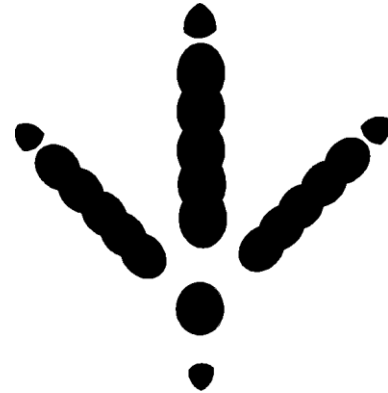
Tracks, Scat, and Sign Activities

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Animals often leave sign behind in the form of tracks, scat, nests, and more. Be a nature detective and look for sign!

Early Learners (preK-2nd grade)

1. Count toes! How many toes does a deer have? What about a fox or a cat? Who has the most toes? Make a chart of different animals found in your area and then research how many toes they have. Turn it into a graph.
2. Make [animal track stamps](#).
3. Listen to the [animal track song](#). Make a dance to go along with the lyrics.
4. Watch videos of your favorite animals to see how they walk. See if you can walk like that animal.
5. Research different animal tracks, their sizes, and their shapes. Take a large piece of paper or sidewalk chalk and make a track pattern. Practice walking like that animal. Here is an example of a [black bear track](#) from Growing Up WILD.
6. Make animal track stencils. Here are some [templates](#) from Growing Up WILD.
7. Make (and eat!) your own [edible raccoon scat](#) (aka rice treats).
8. Take animal models and make your own track patterns in [salt dough](#) or [soft dough](#). You can dry the salt dough to make your own “fossil” prints to keep.
9. Make an [animal track book](#) and/or use cards for matching. Take a walk and look for local animal tracks.



Upper Elementary (3rd-5th)

1. View the [Animal Track Detective video](#). Here is a video on [cat versus dog tracks](#).
2. Read 'Who Pooped in the Park' for your area (like Shenandoah Park). Here is an [online](#) trailer of the Yellowstone guide.
3. Create a track bingo sheet and look for different types of tracks around the neighborhood.
4. Find local animal tracks and draw in them in a nature journal. Pay attention to the number of toes, the shape, and the size of the track. Use a ruler to measure the track. Write down where it was found and describe the habitat. Consider [taking pictures](#). Write a story on what you think happened with each animal. (The fox slowly walked down the street and headed to the park.).
5. Make (and eat!) your own [edible raccoon scat](#) (aka rice treats). For other edible scat ideas, check out the [scat candy lab](#) or the [fake scat lab](#). Fake scat can be made with salt dough or soft dough (recipes found below).
6. Take animal models and make your own track patterns in [salt dough](#) or [soft dough](#). You can dry the salt dough to make your own “fossil” prints to keep.

Middle School and High School (6th-12th)

1. Take a walk and look for different tracks or scat (poop). Try to identify them using our [dichotomous key](#). Check out our [common deer sign sheet](#) to see if you can find any in your neighborhood. See if you can make your own guide to local tracks. Here are some [types of scat](#).
2. Make a track tube! Grab some sign board, a pvc pipe, downspout piece, or something similar and fashion it into a tube or tunnel. Add a removable tray to the bottom and add a piece of paper and ink. You can make ink out of liquid starch and food coloring. Be sure the ink is placed in a location that animals will have to walk over it to reach the paper. Place the tube in an area you have seen animal tracks before (and that you have permission to place it!). Check it once a day to see if anyone has left tracks. Try out several designs and see which one works best.
3. Make (and eat!) your own [edible raccoon scat](#) (aka rice treats). For other edible scat ideas, check out the [scat candy lab](#) or the [fake scat lab](#). Fake scat can be made with salt dough or soft dough (recipes found above). What other scat can you design?

