



ANIMAL
TRACKS & SIGNS

printable

- FOR KIDS -

ANIMAL TRACKS



Materials: field guide, ruler, clipboard, pencil

Instructions: Head outside to search for animal tracks! Try to find a nice, muddy spot or go out after a fresh snowfall. Sketch what you find and write down your observations!

Size:

Location:

How many toes?

Hooves? yes no

Claws? yes no

Animal:

Size:

Location:

How many toes?

Hooves? yes no

Claws? yes no

Animal:

ANIMAL SIGNS

Sometimes it's easier to find animal signs than the animals themselves. Luckily, animals leave behind quite a few clues for us to follow! Here are some of the signs we can look for out in nature.

ANIMAL SCAT

One animal sign that's pretty easy to spot is scat! And looking closely can tell us a lot about the animal it came from. If bones and fur visible, we know it's from a carnivore like a coyote, fox, or mountain lion. Bird scat may be the color of berries or have seeds in it!

DEER BEDS

If you see a large spot in the weeds that's flattened down, this could be a deer bed where they've nestled up for the night!

NESTS

You've probably seen bird nests before, but if you're lucky, there may even be eggs inside! Ever noticed piles of leaves nestled up high in the forks of trees? Those are nests built by squirrels!

SCRATCHES ON TREES

This could be from deer or moose rubbing their antlers against the bark to remove velvet or mountain lions scratching the tree with their claws to mark territory!

SQUIRREL LEFTOVERS

If you see piles of broken nutshells, acorns, or torn apart pine cones, this could be the leftovers of a squirrel's lunch!

PILES OF FUR OR FEATHERS

If you find a pile of fur or feathers, this might mean that a hawk or other predator had it's meal in this spot!

BONES OR ANTLERS

Deer, moose and elk shed their antlers every year and if you keep an eye out, you might be able to find them in the woods! Finding bones or a skeleton can also be an interesting experience!

MISSING BARK FROM TREES

There are several animals that might strip bark from trees, but porcupines are especially known to do this as they like to eat the inner bark.

PATHWAYS

Look for worn down trails (smaller than human paths) that animals have created through the woods and meadows! Hint: Often, these will be leading to water.

HOLES IN TREES

Look for holes in the trees that have been created by woodpeckers but may also have become home to other animals, like squirrels and raccoons!