

Science Story Adventures



Animal Signs

Learning outcomes

- » Students know how to observe and describe similarities and differences in the appearance and behavior of plants and animals. (Kindergarten - Life Sciences)
- » Students will make predictions based on observed patterns and not random guessing. (Grade 2 - Investigation and Experimentation)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Stella & Roy Go Camping by Ashley Wolff
Traces by Paula Fox

Activities we did

- » We talked about different ways we can tell that an animal has been somewhere.
- » We examined scat specimens and learned how it can be important for wildlife biologists.
- » We investigated two wildlife scenes and determined what had happened on a beach near the ocean and in an urban neighborhood.

Today's craft: Animal Track Field Guide



You will need:

- » 2 small rectangle-shaped pieces of cardboard
- » 20 pieces of paper that are slightly smaller than the pieces of cardboard
- » Yarn
- » Scissors
- » Crayons
- » Animal track stamps
- » Stamp pad
- » Pencil

Directions:

1. Punch two holes about 2 in (5 cm) apart along the long side of the cardboard and paper, making sure they line up.
2. Stack the paper in between the two pieces of cardboard. Thread the yarn through the holes and tie it off to keep the book together.
3. Decorate the cover of your field guide.
4. Stamp the different animal tracks in the pages in your book using the stamps. Write the name of the animal on the page with its track. You can leave some pages blank for any notes or drawings you want to make when you go out into nature.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Crinkleroot's Book of Animal Tracking by Jim Aronsky. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL768 .A75 1989

Join Crinkleroot as he uncovers nature's clues and learns about the animals that live in the wilderness around him.

In the Snow: Who's Been Here? by Lindsay Barrett George.

A brother and sister go out for a hike during winter to discover what the animals near their house have been up to.

Tracks in the Wild by Betsy Bowen.

"Each track tells a story. As you follow the marks an animal left behind, you get to know it; where it goes, what it likes to eat, when it runs and why." With dramatic woodcut prints and engaging text the author shares these stories with us.

Watching Nature: A Beginner's Field Guide by Monica Russo. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QH48 .R87 2003

Tips and information on equipment for observing animals and plants in a variety of habitats and at different times of the year.

Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature's Footprints by Jim Arnosky. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL768 .A77

Detailed information and life-size footprints of various North American animals from a well-known author of nature-themed books for kids.

Websites

Animal Tracks Game

See if you can identify all of the animal tracks.

<http://www.islandwood.org/kids/animals/tracksgame.php>

Beartracker's Animal Tracks Guide

An online field guide to the tracks of common animals.

<http://www.bear-tracker.com/guide.html>

Biokids: Tracks and Sign Guide

Designed specifically for kids, this guide outlines different clues that animals might have left behind including tracks, bite or chew marks, things they've built and eggs.

http://www.biokids.umich.edu/guides/tracks_and_sign/

Outdoor Action Guide to Animal Tracking

Outlines different animal signs you can find in the wild and how to track safely.

<http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/nature/tracking.shtml>