

Wildlife Tracks

Suggested Number of Volunteers:
1-2

Materials in Activity Tub:

• Wildlife Tracks (20 total; 1 each of the following):

- badger
- beaver
- raccoon
- red fox
- coyote
- white-tailed deer
- bobcat
- mountain lion
- woodchuck
- river otter
- muskrat
- opossum
- bullfrog
- cottontail rabbit
- snapping turtle
- fox squirrel
- porcupine
- heron
- skunk
- wild turkey
- stamp pads
- cover paper for track booklets
- paper for track booklets
- markers for decorating track booklets
- stapler and staples

Materials Provided by the Group:

- none

Objectives

Students will:

1. Learn tracks made by common Nebraska wildlife species.

Background:

If you take a moment to observe nature, you have probably seen a lot of animal tracks in your backyard, hiking, or even in the snow! Tracks help biologist find out lots of information on the animal. For instance you can tell what kind of animal it was, how fast it was running, what animals are in the area, and what animals have contact with each other.

Procedure:

Before the Activity

1. Place track stamps, stamp pads, markers, cover paper, and booklet paper out on a table. Make sure staplers are filled with staples. Lay-out pictures of wildlife species on the table; you may want to put the corresponding track next to the picture, or you may want participants to match the track with the correct picture.

The Activity

1. When participants arrive at your station, ask them if they would like to learn about wildlife tracks and make a track ID booklet.
2. Invite each participant to pick a piece of paper to be the cover of their booklet. Instruct them to fold it in half. Then, provide them with several sheets of paper for the inside of their track booklet. Fold these in half, too. Put the inside paper into the cover paper, staple.
3. Next, invite participants to use the track stamps and stamp pad to fill their booklet with tracks of different Nebraska wildlife species.
4. Help participants write what animals made each track. Remind participants to put their name on their booklet.