



BE A NATURE DETECTIVE!

INVESTIGATE BY LOOKING FOR THESE THINGS:

Tracks [Footprints]

1

When we think about signs of wildlife, the first things we often consider are tracks. Tracks tell us what kind of wildlife has traveled through, as each species has a unique print. Tips: claws = canine, no claws = feline. Consider spacing and stride!



2

Scat! What's that?!

You may think scat or frass or castings -all scientific words for POOP- are silly, but we can learn many things from scat. What did the animal eat? What is their presence in the area? Are they healthy? Naturalists use scat to do all kinds of research!



Burrows & Nests

3

Animals make all kinds of homes! Burrows and nests are some of the most common, such as those made by birds, insects, rabbits, and snakes! Look around to find a natural cavity or home made by an animal. Who do you think lives there?



4

Paths and Trails

Sometimes, more than prints, animals make entire trails in places they frequently travel. From large animals making paths in the grass to slimy snail trails, just find where there appears to be a path!



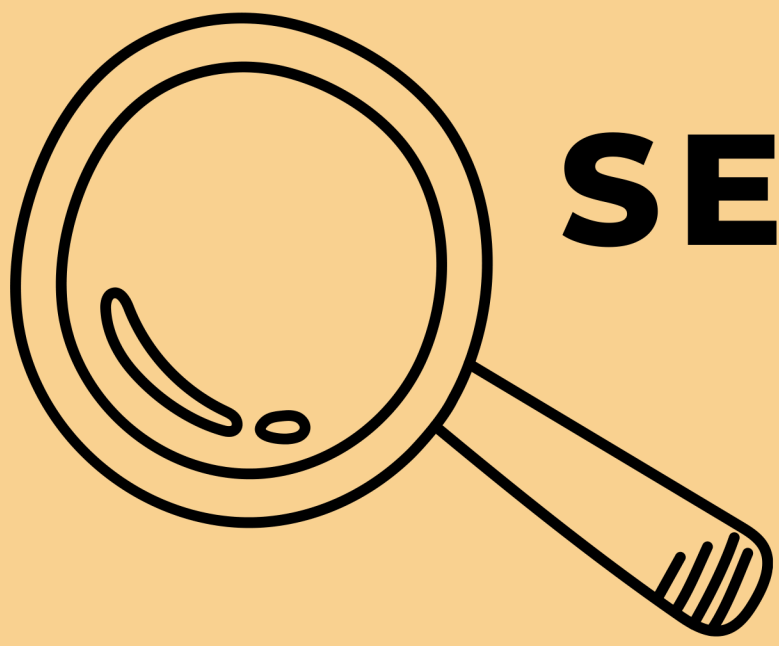
The Little Things!

5

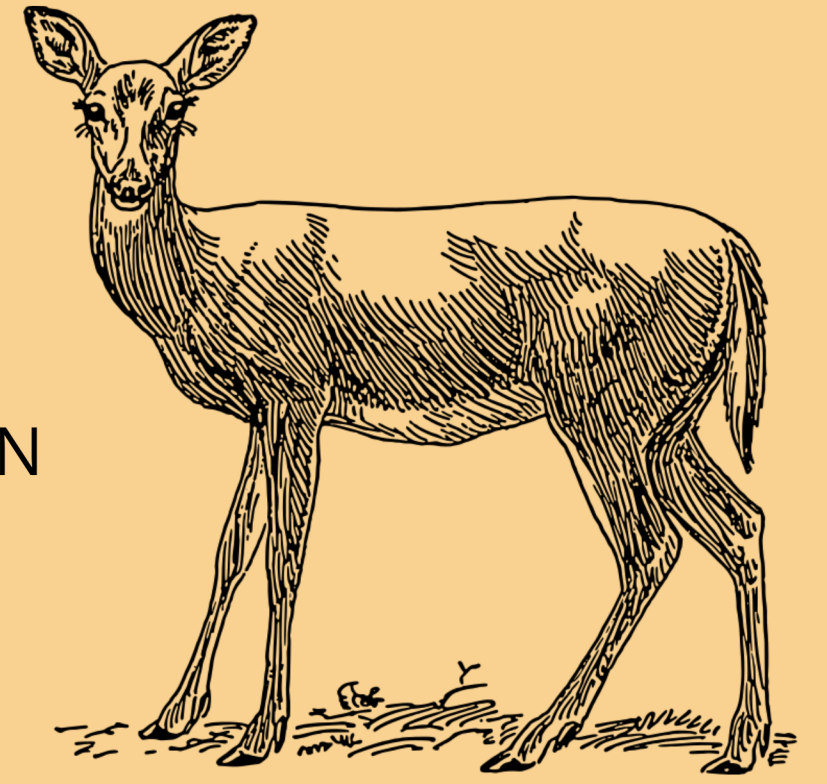
Don't forget to look for the smaller signs of wildlife too: rubbing on bark, leaves that have been chewed, spider silk webs, laid eggs, foraging scratches, shed skins and shells, dropped antlers and old bones!



To check out our other Grab & Go Lessons, visit:
www.philhardbergerpark.org/grabngo-nature-lessons



SEARCH FOR EVIDENCE CHALLENGE!



HOW MANY SIGNS OF WILDLIFE CAN YOU FIND? WHEN YOU FIND SOMETHING, TRY TO INVESTIGATE AND DETERMINE THE ANIMAL THAT LEFT IT!

Scratches

Feathers

Silk strands

Pellets

Drillings

Chewings

Slime

Drag marks

Shells or sheddings

Stripped bark

Egg shells

Piles of dirt

Scattered garbage

Moltings

Scattered & eaten seeds

Scent markings





CREATE YOUR OWN TRACKS!

This might get a bit messy, but you can make your own tracks using just a few materials! You will need: Sponges, Marker, Scissors, Paint and Paper!



1

Learn your Tracks!

Decide what animal you want to make and trace their footprint onto a sponge with a marker.

2

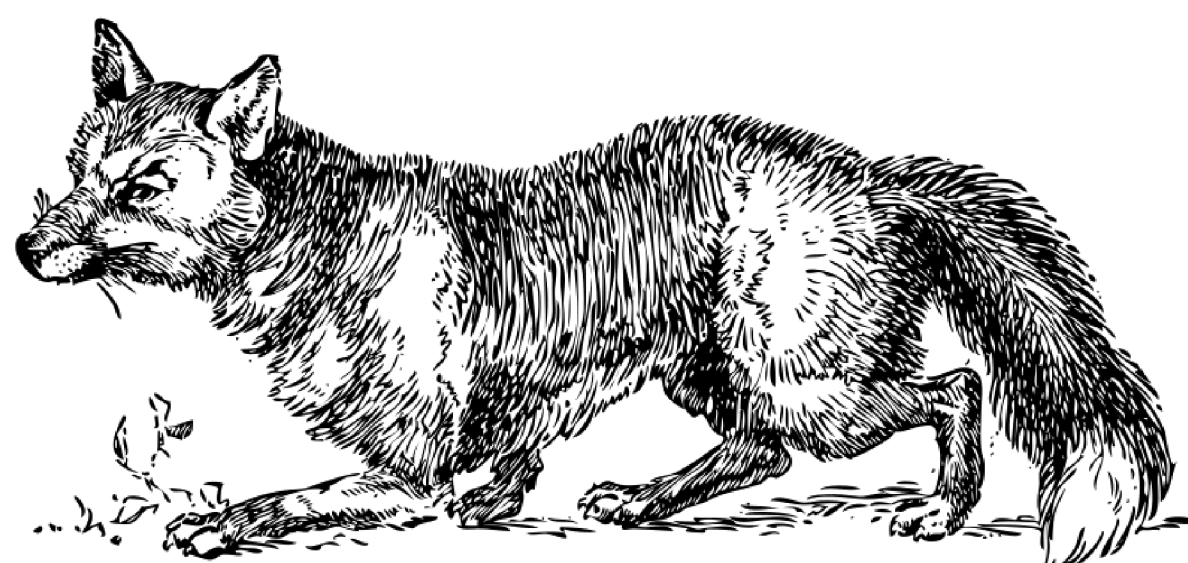
Carefully cut them out.

An adult may need to help. Cut out the tracks carefully. Be sure to get all the toes and claws or no claws!

3

Get your paint and print!

Pour a little bit of paint onto a disposable plate. Use your stamps like footprints and make animal tracks across your paper!



Animal Tracks **SNACKS!**



INGREDIENTS:

Base Layer Options:

Crackers, Bread Slices, Ricecakes, Pancakes, Veggie Slices

Sticky Layer Options:

Cream Cheese [snow], Peanut Butter [mud], Butter [sand], Jam

Tracks:

Pretzels, Deli Meat, Cheese Slice, Nuts, Fruit and Veggie Pieces

DIRECTIONS:

Keep it simple! The base layer and sticky layer serve to be the 'natural' environment for an animal to leave tracks on. Then the track components let us show the path of an animal! Cheese slices can be duck tracks, pretzel sticks can be songbird tracks, and pepperoni can be puppy tracks!