

ANIMAL TRACKING

Become a detective. Find evidence of animals that live around you!

DETAILS

- Age: Can be adapted for any age
- Time: 20 - 60 minutes
- Materials: paper and pencil

PREPARATION

- Dress properly for the weather.
- Find a safe outdoor space.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

When choosing a place to explore, please be mindful of the CDC's recommended social distancing protocols.

RECORDING EVIDENCE

There are lots of ways you can record the evidence you find! Make tally marks, or a short description, or a small sketch for each piece of evidence you find.

IDENTIFICATION

The goal is not necessarily to identify which animal left each piece of evidence. In fact, it is good practice to use *language of uncertainty* (ex. "this REMINDS ME OF a raccoon track" or "this COULD BE from a rodent"). How many different explanations can you come up with?

OBJECTIVES

- MAKE PREDICTIONS for where to look.
- FIND EVIDENCE of animals.
- RECORD findings.

ACTIVITY STEPS

MAKE PREDICTIONS & SET UP JOURNAL

 Before heading out to find evidence, ask yourself and your student a few questions:

-  • What kinds of animals have we seen in this area?
- What kinds of animals do we think are here but we haven't seen?
- What kind of evidence might we find?
- Where should we look for evidence?

 Set up your journal/paper to record evidence you find. This is just one example of how to organize a page. Feel free to record your information differently.

Tracks	Scat	Body Parts
Homes	Leftover food	Sounds
Marks	Smells	What else?

FIND EVIDENCE!

-  Head outside - go for a walk or just explore one spot!
-  Record when you find evidence for animals. Can you figure out what the animal was doing when it left that evidence? Try to piece together that animal's story.

SHOW US WHAT YOU FOUND

Take a photo of the evidence you found or your journal page and share it with us on Facebook with #activitiestotry! We'd love to hear what's out there.