

# 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.