

Lesson Plan

Tracks & Trails

Class Duration: 1 hour – 1 ½ hours

Tour Duration: 1 hour

Goals: Students determine how to interpret animal tracks and traces and how to identify specific animal tracks to determine the animal from the track. Look for animal evidence on the property and make a plaster cast of a bobcat track to take home.

Supplies:

- Mammal tracks handouts
- measuring tapes
- pencils
- Plaster of Paris, Sand, Bobcat Tracks

Education:

_____ Introduce the concept of tracking and how we interpret an animal from their tracks (footprints, scat, claw marks, etc)

_____ Explain how to measure a track and measure stride & straddle; discuss direct register and indirect register

_____ Divide into groups and have kids describe the track they are looking at on “animal tracks” worksheet and identify the animal species that made it

_____ Have the students explain who they believe made the tracks and determine if they used correct criteria for identification. Group discussion.

_____ Have kids prepare their cups and imprint the Bobcat paw in each cup

_____ Kids will prepare their Plaster of Paris and pour it in the track impression; after the tour the kids can take home their paw prints.

SCIENCE STANDARDS:

Common Core: K.MD, 2.MD, L.2.4, SL.2.1, L.2.3, W.2.8, SL.2.3, SL.2.2,

NGSS: 3-LS3-2, 3.MD.B.4, RI.3.7, RI.4.7, RI.5.7, WHST.6-8.9