Week 6: Animal Tracks

Who walked here? Look in snow, mud and creek sand

"The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks…" Proverbs 30:26

What to look for

- Fresh snow, soft mud by a creek or a sandy path: the best places for tracks.
- The **pattern** of the tracks as well as each print: walking, hopping or bounding?
- Where the trail **goes**: to water, under a fence, up a tree.
- Other signs: chewed twigs, scattered nut shells, droppings, trails through grass.

Did you know?

Deer have split hooves that leave a print like an upside-down heart, pointed end toward the way it was going.

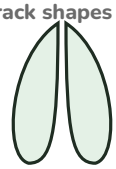
When a rabbit hops, its large hind feet land in front of its smaller front feet.

Dog, fox and coyote tracks usually show claw marks; cats pull their claws in, so their tracks usually do not.

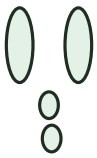
A fox often walks in a nearly straight line, setting each hind foot into the print of its front foot.

Try this: Measure one track with a ruler, sketch it actual size, and draw the pattern of five steps.

Simple track shapes (not to scale)



Deer



Rabbit (hopping set)



Dog, fox or coyote



Cat or bobcat

Sketch

Date: _____ Weather: _____

Sketch

Date: _____ Weather: _____

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