



RUBBER STAMP ANIMAL TRACKS!

Episode: "Follow Those Footprints" (11 min.)

On Nature Art Day, Nature Cat proudly unveils a statue of himself made out of acorns... but where's its head? By following animal tracks, the gang can find the culprit.

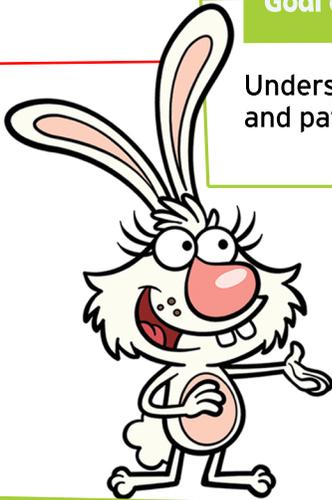
Episode curriculum goal: Animal tracks give clues about the kind of animal that made them, where it was going, and what it was doing.

Clips on PBSKids.org: "Nature Art Day"

*To view clips, visit PBSKids.org/video, click on Nature Cat and select Browse.

Goal of Activity:

Understand how to identify animal tracks and patterns.



The Basics:

Number of Children: Any number. Younger children may need help from an adult.

Space: A table with clear workspace.

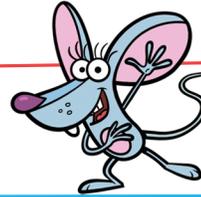
Time: Approx. 15 minutes.

What You'll Need:

- 🍂 Rubber stamps of animal tracks. (You can either buy them or make your own by tracing animal tracks onto a sheet of "Fun Foam" from a craft store and cutting out the tracks.)
- 🍂 Washable black paint.
- 🍂 2-4 pieces of 8" x 13" upholstery foam.
- 🍂 2-4 plastic trays, each approximately 8" x 14". Use more trays for larger groups. (Plastic shoe box lids work well too!)
- 🍂 Large white paper.
- 🍂 Crayons.
- 🍂 Copies of animal tracks handout (see attached).

Preparation (before children arrive):

1. Cover table with a disposable tablecloth to protect your workspace.
2. Print out copies of the animal tracks handout (one per child, or children can share).
3. Place one piece of upholstery foam in each tray. Dampen foam with water. Add a few squirts of paint, fold foam over, and press the sides together to distribute the paint evenly.
4. Arrange all materials on the table.



Tally Ho! What to Do:

- 🍃 Tell children that you'll be making animal footprints in different shapes and sizes. As the children saw in the episode of Nature Cat, tracks come in different shapes and sizes, and they have specific features that show what type of animal made them.
- 🍃 Have children stamp animal tracks on the paper by gently pressing the stamp into the paint tray and then onto the paper. They can make a trail by stamping the same tracks several times in a row, or stamp different animal tracks next to each other to compare them.
- 🍃 While the children are stamping, ask them to compare the different kinds of animal tracks: How are they different? How are they similar? Use the animal tracks handout to figure out what animal makes each kind of tracks. Children can use the markers or crayons to write down the name of the animal next to its tracks.

Onward and Yonward! Take It Further:

Encourage children to think about how different-shaped tracks give clues about what different animals do.

Things to do: Find or make stamps that represent different activities animals might do, such as foot prints (to represent running), a tree (climbing), waves (swimming), a shovel (digging), and hands (grasping).

Things to talk about: Ask children to look at the tracks they've stamped and figure out what kinds of things each animal probably does. Does this animal use its feet for running? Climbing? Swimming? Digging? Grasping objects? Children can use the activity stamps to stamp the activity next to the corresponding tracks.

Partnership



The Rubber Stamp Animal Tracks activity was created in partnership with Kohl Children's Museum.

ANIMAL TRACKS



BIRD



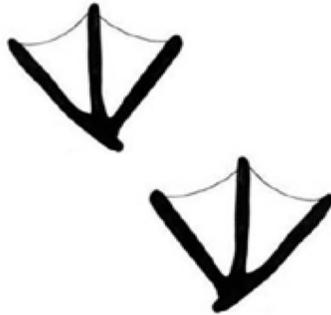
CAT



DEER



DOG



DUCK



MOUSE



RABBIT



RACCOON



SQUIRREL

