



Friends of NCTC Program Activity  
c. 2021 Friends of National Conservation Training Center  
animal

## Whose Tracks Are Those?

(ages 5 and older)

*What does your footprint look like? Is it the same as a wild animal?*

### Background (natural history)

During the winter, animals that do not hibernate must stay active to find food. They generally sleep during the day and are active at night, so we don't see them, but they let us know that they have been around by leaving their tracks! Animal tracks are easy to spot when it snows, but they can be found at any time of year and you don't need to be in the deep woods!

### What You Will Need for This Project

Animal track images (several are found in this program)

Socks

Sharpie

Modeling Clay or Play-Doh

Card stock and/or Construction Paper and Glue

### What to Do

Animals can't always be seen, but they leave evidence—their tracks! You can even find tracks in your yard as well as on a hike and any time of the year, but it's especially fun during the winter when it snows.

### Model Tracks

Use modeling clay or Play-Doh to make track models. Look carefully at the pictures and let your fingers do the work. Notice if the animal has toes, claws, pads or hooves. Are the tracks like yours?

### Make Track Socks

Use a pair of white or light grey socks. Take one of the images and carefully cut it out. Then trace the image on the bottom of both socks. Use a Sharpie (any color!) to outline the track and fill it in. You won't actually leave any tracks yourself, but you can enjoy wearing them!

### Match the Track Games

This activity can be played as two different games:

Game One: To make a set of match cards, copy the images in activity one onto card stock or paste the cards onto a construction paper back so that the image cannot be seen through the paper.

(You will need two cards of each track.) Mix up the cards, place them face down on a flat surface, and allow each player to turn over two cards per turn. If the cards match, the player can go again. If the cards are not a match, the next player has a turn.

Game 2: Write the type of animal's name on the opposite side of the track. Place all cards animal track side-up. See if you can correctly tell which track belongs to what type of animal.



### Can You Walk Like an Animal? (see next page)

Look at the animal tracks and notice how the animal moves. (Remember, these animals walk on four legs, so you will need to be on your hands and feet/knees.)

With your own hands and feet in the snow, try to duplicate the track patterns in the graphic. Next, play a guessing game. The “tracker” looks away while the person playing the role of “animal” makes tracks in the snow. When the animal is done, the tracker turns around and tries to guess how the animal walked, jumped, crawled, slithered, etc. to create that track pattern. Switch roles.

### Follow The Tracks! (see next page)

Can you follow the different animals? Be careful! Sometimes the tracks stop and go in a different direction.

### Helpful Hints for Adults (books to read, other websites, links)

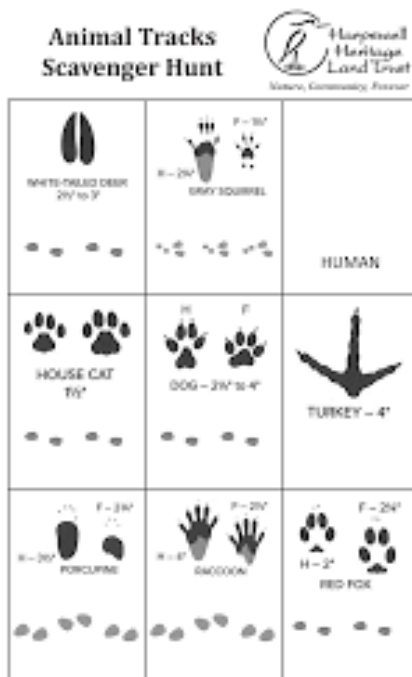
*Tracks, Scats and Signs (Take Along Guides)* by Leslie Dendy

*Whose Tracks Are These? A Clue Book of Familiar Forest Animals* by James Nail

Scat and Tracks Quest Fundanas, including Scat and Tracks and Winter Fun can be found here:

<https://www.fundanabandanas.com/>

There are several free downloads for outside winter activities at this site: <https://hhltmaine.org/winter-adventurers-exploration-kit/>



Can You Walk Like An Animal?

S.E. MICHIGAN  
FOREST  
HIKINGMICHIGAN.COM

# ANIMAL TRACKS

HIKING MICHIGAN

## RABBIT

Cotton-Tail Rabbit



## SQUIRREL

Red Fox Squirrel



## OPOSSUM

Possum



## SKUNK

Striped Skunk



## DEER MOUSE

Deer Mouse



## RACCOON

Raccoon



## WOODCHUCK

Ground Hog



## COYOTE

Coyote

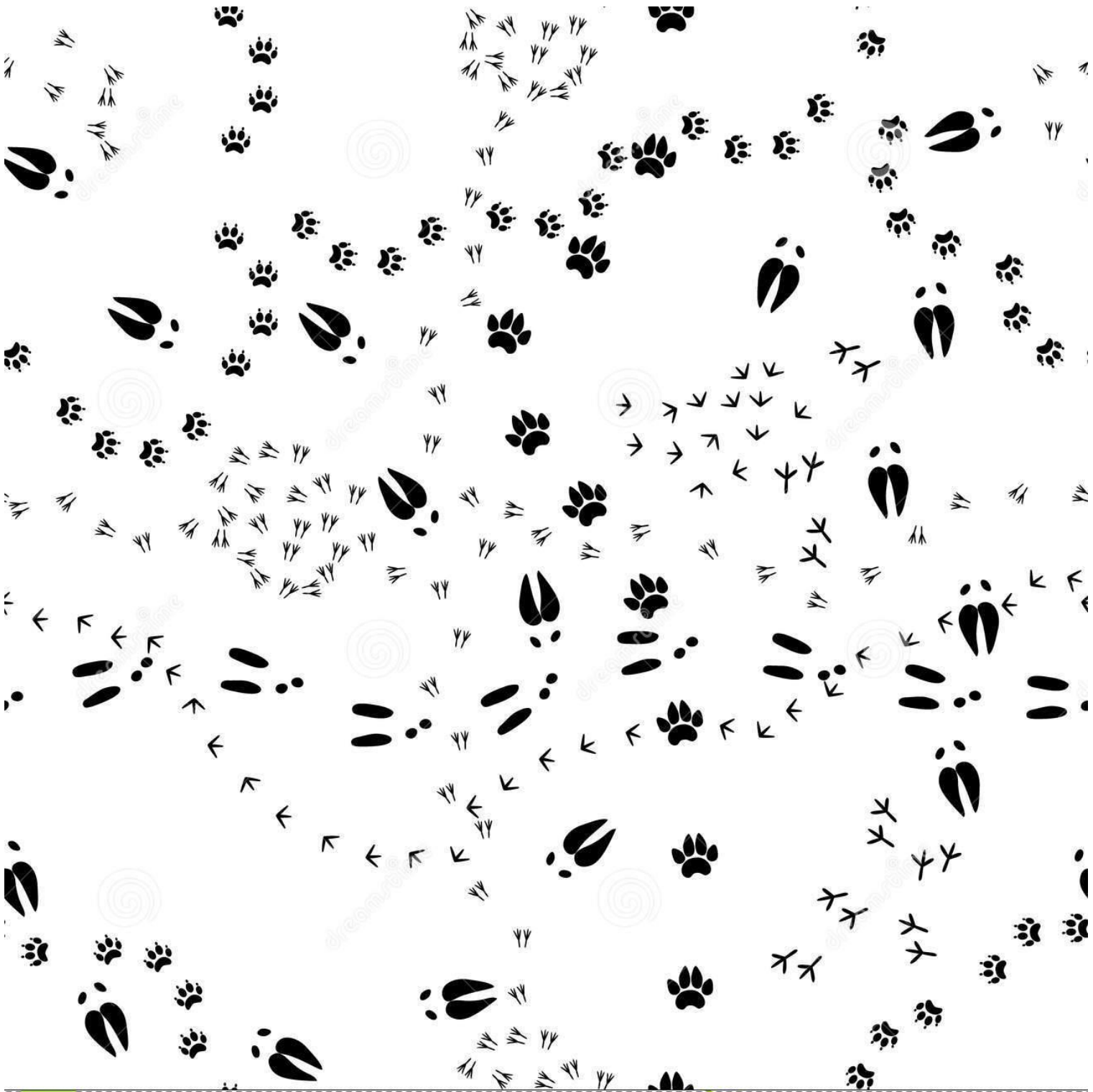


## DEER

White-Tailed



# Follow The Tracks!



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