



My nature connection

ANIMAL TRACKS IN THE SNOW

GRADE: K-3
TIME: 40-50 min

Do you know that many animals stay in Minnesota over the winter? You may not see them every day, but if you look around in the snow, you will see many signs that they leave behind—footprints!

ACTIVITY

INTRODUCTION

Winter is a great time to look for animal tracks because they often stand out in the snow. Unlike looking through the mud and leaves, animal prints in the snow are often clear and easy to spot.

When looking for animal prints, there are a few things to consider. First, where do you think most animals will live and walk? Think of a few places that would be great to search (yard, park, woods, etc.).

When you look for animal tracks, bring a notebook and a pencil to draw what you find. When you find a track, draw the shape that you see. Make sure to look for all the details that will help you discover what animal it is. How many feet does it have? How many toes? How big is it? How does the animal move?

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Warm clothes for outdoors
- Notebook
- Pen or Pencil
- Optional- print out of this lesson

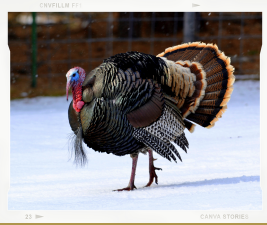
STUDENTS WILL:

Learn to identify animal prints using various context clues

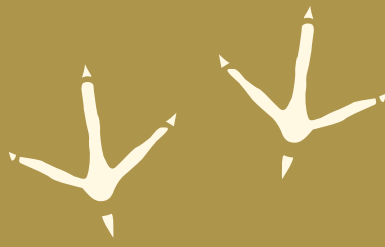
SETTING:

Outdoors

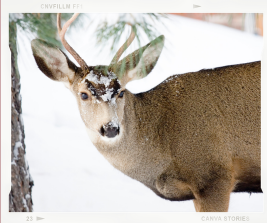
MINNESOTA ANIMAL PRINTS



WILD TURKEY



Turkeys are a common sight in Minnesota. They have 3 large front toes with a small stabilizing toe in the back. Since turkeys often travel in groups, you will likely see more than one set of prints at a time.



DEER



Deer prints will often be found in wooded areas where they live and eat. Their prints often look like small, heart-shaped hooves.



BEAR



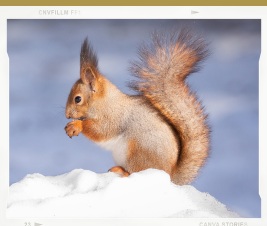
A bear print is a rare find but a rewarding one! You are more likely to find bear prints further up north in large wooded areas. Bears do not like to be near humans, so look for their prints away from cities.



RABBIT



Rabbit prints are very common to see in many areas of Minnesota. Due to the drag of their feet, the prints often look like two long ovals followed by two short ones.

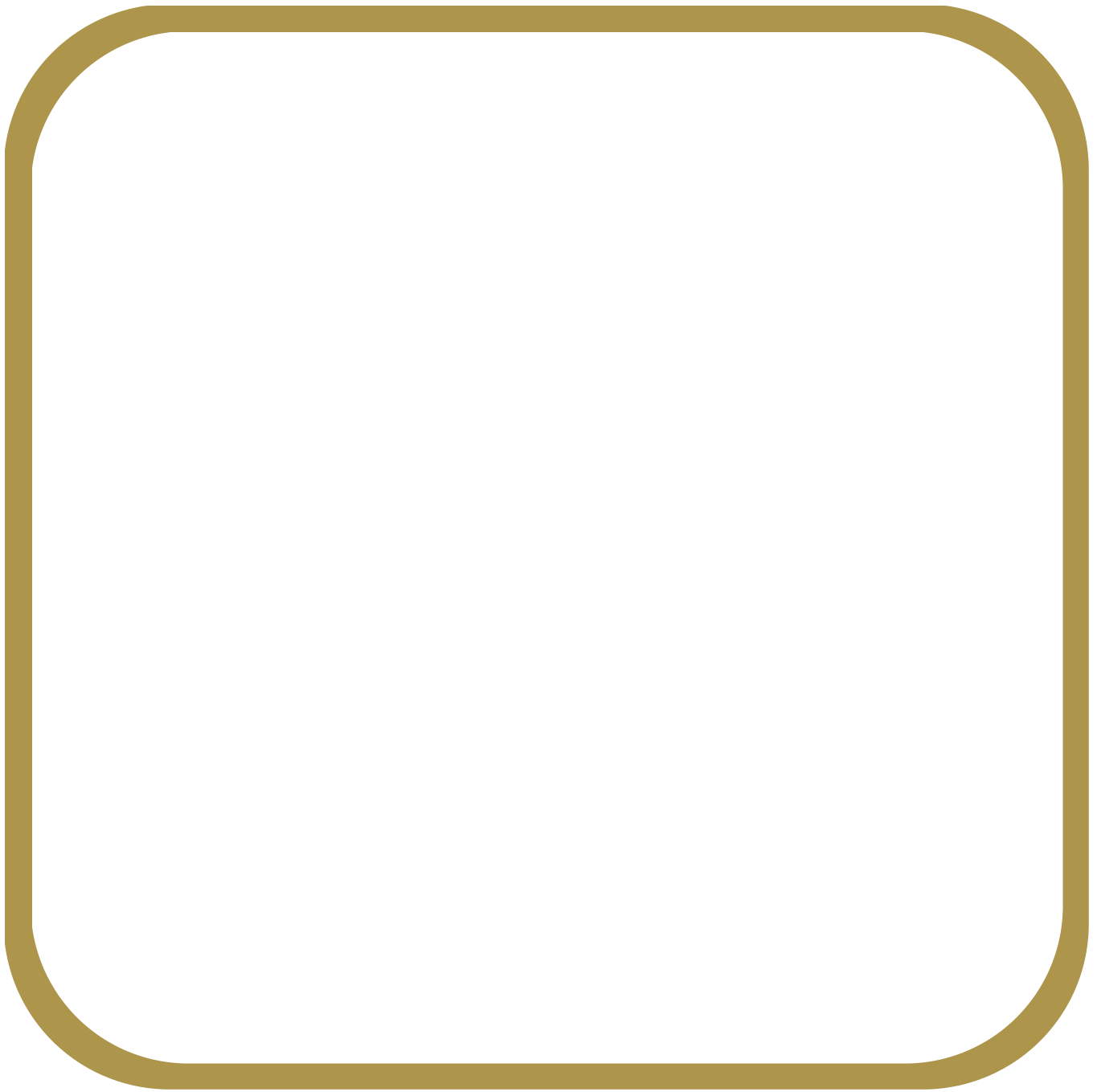


SQUIRREL



Squirrel prints look similar to rabbit prints but are smaller and have more defined toes on the front and back feet. Squirrel prints are common sights in yards and parks.

DRAW YOUR PRINT BELOW:



I BELIEVE THIS ANIMAL IS A...

I BELIEVE THIS BECAUSE...

CONNECTING WITH QUESTIONS

- Where did you see the most animal prints? Why do you think that is?
- Was it difficult to figure out which animal left the prints? What other resources or clues did you use?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



36 Most Common Animal Tracks | Identification Guide for USA

Learn how to identify common animal tracks in snow, mud and sand. Detailed illustratio...

 Greenbelly Meals



Animal Track Identification

These animal track pictures, including raccoon tracks, rabbit tracks, skunk tracks and more, will help you identify the animal footprints in your yard, from The...

 Old Farmer's Almanac

EDUCATION STANDARDS

Social Emotional Learning Competency:

Grade Level

Science Education Standard

Grade K

0.1.1.2.1 Use observations to develop an accurate description of a natural phenomenon and compare one's observations and descriptions with those of others

Grade 1

1.1.1.1.1 When asked, "How do You Know?" students support their answer with observations.

Grade 2

2.1.1.2.1 Raise questions about the natural world and seek answers by making careful observations, noting what happens when you interact with an object, and sharing the answers with others.

Grade 3

3.1.1.2.4 Construct reasonable explanations based on evidence collected from observations or experiments.