

Who's Track is That?

Activity 1

Gait Patterns and Animal Track ID Worksheet

ANIMAL TRACK ID WORKSHEET

(For use with older grades.)

# of Toes	Family	Animal	Approx. Size (in cm)	Clues	Identify (A-J)
2 (Hoof)	Deer	Moose	15cm long/ 10cm wide	Heart-shaped Very large (twice as large as deer tracks!) Alternating tracks with hind prints registering on front prints When snow or mud is deeper than 3 cm, the dewclaws (which give extra support to the enormous weight) show up far back from the print.	
		Deer	7.5cm long/ 5cm wide	Heart-shaped Alternating tracks with hind prints registering on front prints	
4	Rabbit	Snowshoe Hare	Front Foot 6 cm long/ 4cm wide Hind Foot 11 cm long/ 6cm long	MOST IMPORTANT FEATURE - Very large hind foot (snowshoe-shaped)	
		Dog	Red Fox Front Foot 6cm long/ 5cm wide (hind foot is slightly smaller)	Oval-shaped tracks Fox have very hairy feet, so details of print are very visible	
	Eastern Grey Wolf	Front Foot 10cm long/ 7cm long (hind foot is slightly smaller)	Oval-shaped tracks Shows four claws		
5	Weasel	Mink	4cm long/ 4cm wide	Track shows five toes (although sometimes only four show) with five loosely connected palms pads in an arch	
		Otter	Front Foot 7cm long/ 6cm wide Hind Foot 8cm long/ 6cm wide	Webbing between toes show in track print	
		Fisher	6cm long/ 6cm wide	Small inner toe often doesn't show on track	
	Other	Skunk	Front Foot 3.5 cm long/ 3cm wide Hind Foot 5 cm long/ 3.5 cm wide	Smaller front feet are pigeon-toed Long claws are usually evident in the print	
		Raccoon	Front Foot 6cm long/ 5cm long Hind Foot 7cm long/ 6cm long	Human hand shaped print Small claws appear as dots Front feet rarely leave heel prints, but hind feet do show heel prints	
		Black Bear	Front Foot 15cm long/ 14cm wide Hind Foot 25cm long/ 15cm wide	Human foot print shaped About the size of a human print, except wider with claw marks Largest toe on outside of foot (opposite of humans, whose baby toe is on the outside) 5 toes, but often the smallest toe doesn't show up in the track	

# of Toes	Family	Animal	Approx. Size (in cm)	Clues	Identify (A-J)
5	Rodent	Beaver	Front Foot 8cm long/ 7cm wide Hind Foot 15cm long/ 12cm wide	Noticeable webbing between toes Tracks often covered by marks from its large, scaly tail Hind foot is large, triangular-shaped Front foot is much smaller with five toes, but rarely are marks from all toes to be seen	
		Muskrat	Front Foot 3 cm long/3cm wide Hind Foot 4.5 cm long/4cm wide	Front foot – inner toe of the five rarely shows up in print Hind foot – shows five long, finger-like toes	
4 Toes Front, 5 Toes Hind	Rodent	Grey Squirrel	Front Foot 3cm long/ 3cm wide Hind Foot 4.5cm long/ 2.5cm wide	Very small tracks Front foot – a clear print will show four toes with sharp claws, four fused palm pads and two heel pads Hind foot – tracks shows five toes and four palm pads Tracks are common between trees and near holes in the ground where they have dug up buried cones. Squirrels place their feet next to each other rather than one in front of the other. In deep snow their tracks are characterized by two diamond shapes next to one another. A clear imprint will reveal five long toes with claws similar to the skeleton of a human hand and may or may not have a heel print. The heel is as long again as the toes and a rough oval shape.	
		Porcupine	Front Foot 6cm long/ 4 cm wide Hind Foot 8cm long/ 4cm wide	Very long claw marks On clear prints, the heel pads show up as very pebbly Porcupine tracks often are obscured by marks from its long, spiky tail	

GAIT PATTERNS

Pacer



Diagonal Walker



Bounder



Galloper



WEASEL FAMILY

Shows - 5 toes front, 5 toes rear, claws

General Shape



Box Shape

Normal Pace Gait: Bounder






Indirect Register
All are ball walkers (except skunk - see Others)

Weasals, Mink, Fisher, Otter, Marten, Wolverine,
Badger



Badger

DOG FAMILY	Shows - 4 toes front, 4 toes rear, claws
General Shape	Normal Pace Gait: Diagonal Walker
	 <p>Indirect Register Front feet 1/3 larger than rear.</p> <p>Dog inner toes larger Fox - 4 toes equal size, direct register, zero straddle, zero pitch, shows ridge on heal pad Wolf - 4 toes equal size Coyote - outer toes larger</p> 
Egg Shaped	Dog

DEER FAMILY

Shows - 2 toes front, 2 toes rear

General Shape



Heart Shaped



Dew Claw

Normal Pace Gait: Diagonal Walker



Indirect register





Front feet 1/2 larger than rear feet




With speed or soft ground the toes may spread and dew claws appear

Larger toe is on the outside

Can tell sex using toe size/location (in adults). Locate the front vs rear tracks on a pair of prints. Decide which toe is larger to determine whether it is a left or right pair. If the rear foot is in a wider stance then it is a female (wider pelvis). If the front foot is in a wider stance then it is a male (wider shoulder girdle).

**Deer
(toes open)**

CAT FAMILY	Shows - 4 toes front, 4 toes rear, claws (rarely)
General Shape	Normal Pace Gait: Diagonal Walker
	
Round	<p>Direct Register Front feet 1/2 larger than rear No claws (95% of time) - sometimes out during a hunt. Zero straddle Zero pitch</p>
	
	Cat
	<p>Feral Cat - 4 toes equal size Mountain Lion - 4 toes equal size Bobcat - inner toes larger, cleft in heel pad Lynx - outer toes larger</p>
	

OTHERS	Shows - 5 toes front, 5 toes rear, claws	
General Shape	Normal Pace Gait: Pacer	
		
Fuzzy front edge with elipitcal back - human looking	<p>Indirect Register</p> <p>Raccoon, Opposum, Bear, Skunk (from Weasel family)</p>	
		
	Bear	

RODENTS

Shows - 4 toes front, 5 toes rear, claws

General Shape



Cross Pattern

Normal Pace Gait: Galloper



Indirect Register

Gallopers : Squirrels, Ground Squirrels, Mice Rats, Chipmunks, Ground Hog, Marmot.
Tree dwellers show both pairs of feet parallel.
Ground dwellers show dominant foot landing first.

Pacers: Porcupine, Muskrat, Beaver, Mountain Beaver

Porcupine, Muskrat, Beaver - in deep mud show 5 toes in front (a hidden thumb). Mountain Beaver - always shoes 5 toes in front.

