

Jackson County Conservation Summer 2020—Weekly Nature Activity Series

We hope that our weekly nature activities can provide some outdoor fun for you and your family this summer.

Week 4: June 29

Animal Scat/Track ID

Sometimes we don't see the animals that live around us, but you can find the signs they leave behind.

Background

Animals leave droppings as a way for their body to get rid of waste. Scientists call these droppings "scat". Scat comes in all different shapes and sizes.

Animal tracks are another sign an animal has been there. Tracks are an imprint left behind in soil, snow, or mud by an animal walking across it. Animals tracks can be used to track animals as well as to identify animals.

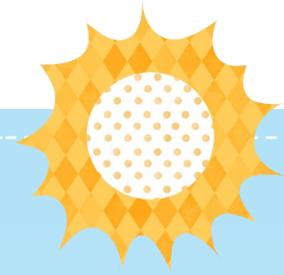


Instructions

Go outside in your backyard or a local park and find animal tracks and scat. Use the track and scat guides we have provided to identify what animal made the tracks or left the scat. Check back regularly to see what you can find. Look near water where soil is wet and animals may make more of an imprint.



For additional resources, a great tracks and signs guide can be found online at: www.biokids.umich.edu/guides/tracks_and_sign/



Animal Scat Recipe

Materials:

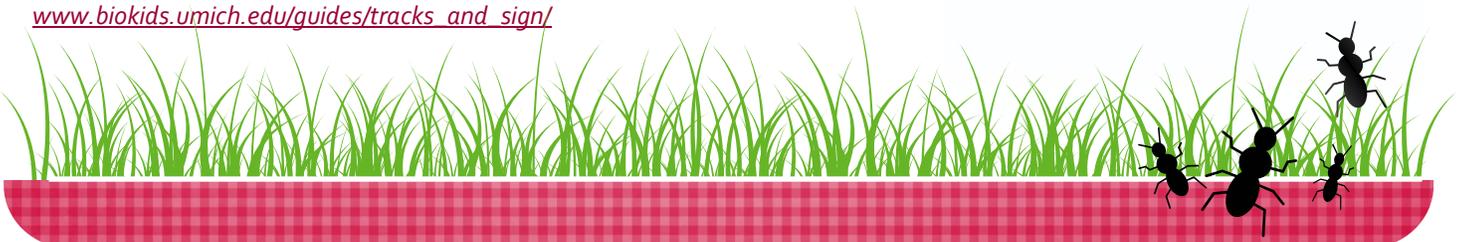
- * A Measuring cup
- * Oatmeal (not instant)
- * Cocoa Powder
- * Teaspoon
- * Water

Instructions:

1. Place a 1/2 cup of oatmeal on a plate; grind oatmeal with your fingers to make it less chunky.
 2. Add 2 teaspoons of cocoa; mix with fingers.
 3. Add water until oatmeal mixture can be molded.
 4. Choose an animal on the ID sheet and mold their scat.
 5. When finished, you can place your scat model on a piece of paper and label the animal.
- * **Bonus:** is the animal you picked an omnivore, herbivore or carnivore?

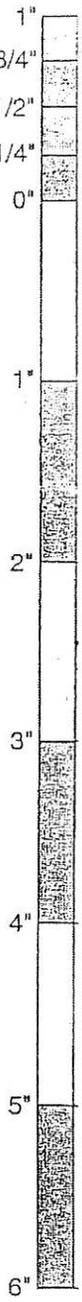
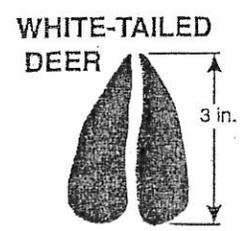
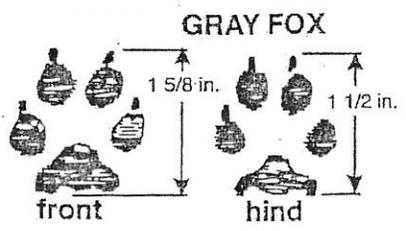
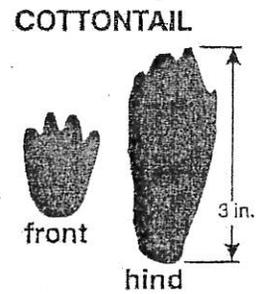
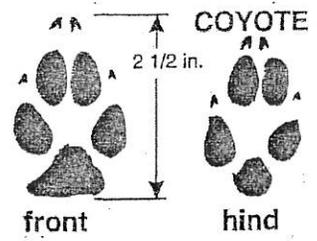
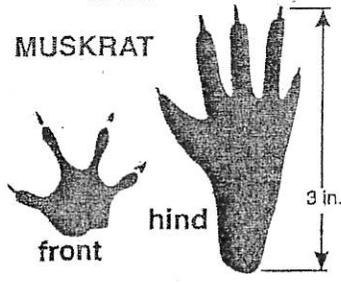
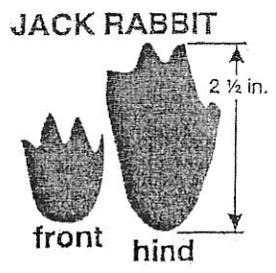
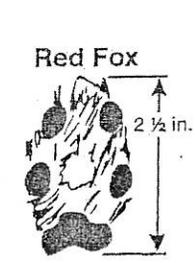
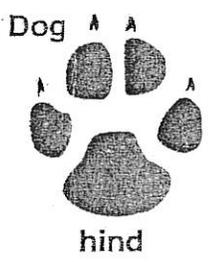
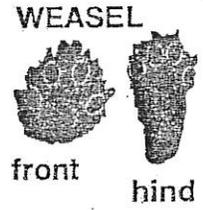
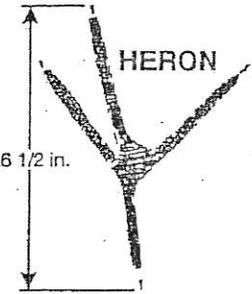
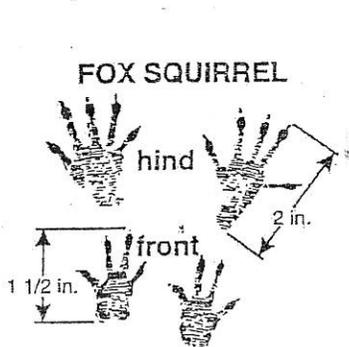
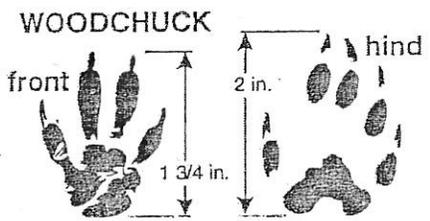
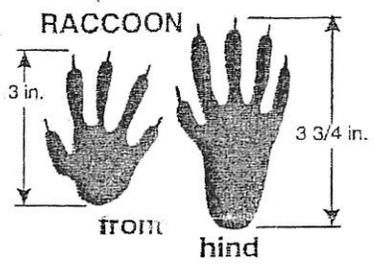
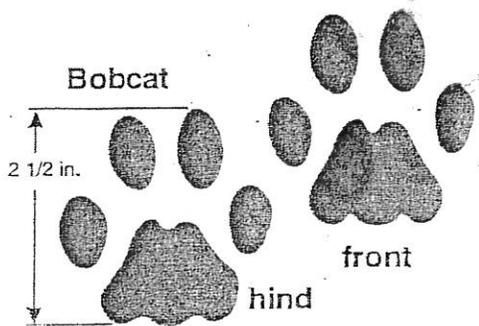
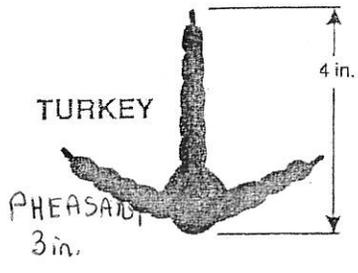
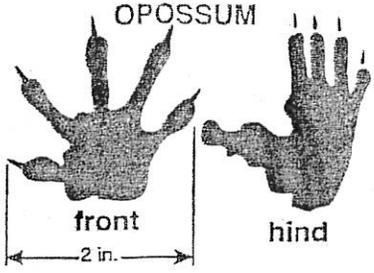
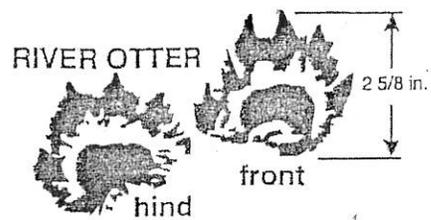
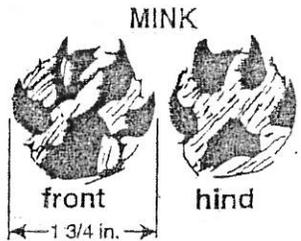
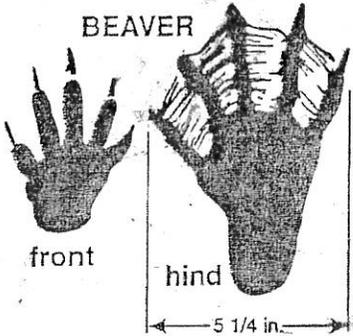
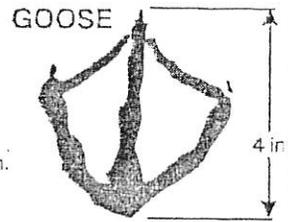
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WILDLIFE TRACKS



Scat ID Guide of Common Critters of Eastern Iowa



Little Brown Bat Scat



Mouse/ Rat Scat



Beaver Scat



White Tail Deer Scat



Coyote Scat



Skunk Scat



Bobcat Scat



Raccoon Scat



Owl Pellets



Mole Scat



Rabbit Scat



Squirrel Scat