

Just for Kids

Snow Tracking

Have you ever seen a track in the snow and wondered who made it? By looking at a track's shape, size and trail pattern, you can figure out which animal was around before you were!

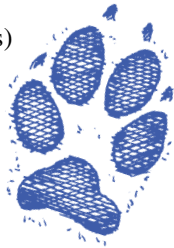
The First Clue

Is the track.....

dog-like?

(oval with claw marks)
coyote, red fox, gray fox, dog

COYOTE



cat-like?

(round and no claw marks)
bobcat, cat

BOBCAT



**with big, back feet;
little front feet?**

rodents, rabbits

RACCOON

RABBIT

different?

skunk, weasels

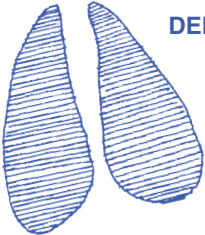
SKUNK



heart-shaped?

deer, moose

DEER



hand-like?

raccoon, opossum

OPOSSUM



More Clues

Does the trail of tracks.....

end at a tree?

squirrel?

follow a straight path?

fox or coyote?

show no pattern at all?

skunk?

Solve this Mystery:

While walking in a field one day, you see dog-like tracks following a straight path. Walking a little further, you notice the tracks of an animal that has two small feet and two large feet. The dog-like tracks follow the other tracks for a while until they lead to a thick brush pile. Then, you only see dog-like tracks leaving the brush pile. What do you think happened?

Answer to Mystery:

A coyote was walking in the field where it smelled a rabbit's trail. It followed the rabbit's trail, hoping to make a meal of it, but the rabbit escaped by entering a small hole in the brush.

Clues to Close the Case

Knowing about habitats helps!

3-inch, dog-like tracks in a field?

COYOTE

hand-like tracks by a stream?

RACCOON

2-inch, cat-like tracks in rocky woods?

BOBCAT