

# Traces for You to Find



Bird Nest

## A Bird's Home

Different bird species build unique nests. Some roost in the cavities of trees, some live in bushes and others build fancy nests. If you were a bird, where would you build your nest - in the hollow of a tree trunk like a woodpecker or in the canopy of a tall tree like the red-tailed hawk?

## Diggin' for Food

The large oval holes in this tree were created by pileated woodpeckers in search of carpenter ants and bark beetles. Other types of woodpeckers make different sized and shaped holes. How many trees can you find with traces left on them by woodpeckers?



Woodpecker Holes



Eaten Nut

## Yesterday's Lunch

Many animals leave traces of their food choices for us to find. Squirrels and chipmunks leave fragmented nuts and pine cones, while bears flatten thickets of berry bushes in search of the best berries. Can you find something an animal has eaten?

## Snake Proof

Finding a snake track is difficult, but occasionally we find other traces of their presence. Snakes shed their old skin as they grow larger. As a snake grows, it forms a new skin under the old one. When the new skin is ready, the snake slithers out of its old skin, leaving the shed behind.



Snake Shed

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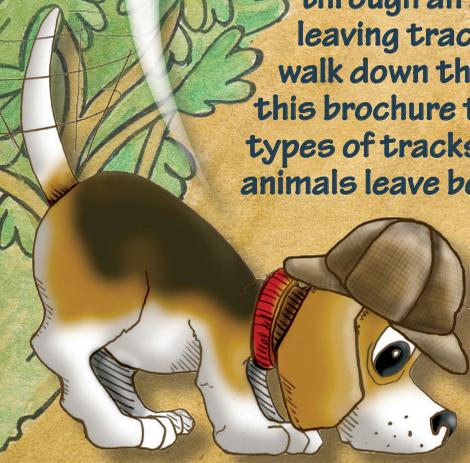
# Tracks & Traces

Tracking things in nature is fun! Hey TRACK, what kind of footprint is that?



Well KIP, judging by the size and shape of these tracks, and the look of the scat, I think a coyote was here last night.

No animal can pass through an area without leaving traces. As you walk down the trail, use this brochure to discover the types of tracks and traces animals leave behind.



**WARNING:** Raccoon scat may contain the eggs of raccoon roundworm, which can be fatal to humans. If you find scat, DO NOT handle it.

## Raccoon

Raccoon tracks have five toes on their front and rear paws and resemble miniature human-baby hand prints.



Track (Left/Front)



Scat



Tim Williams



Because raccoons are **omnivores** (they eat both plants and animals), their scat can vary in size, shape and color. As a rule of thumb, if you can't identify the scat, treat it as raccoon scat and **DO NOT** disturb it.

## White-Tailed Deer

Deer tracks are usually the easiest to find because their hard hooves leave better impressions than the soft paws of other animals.



Track



Scat



Bed

Found in clusters, a deer scat pellet has a dimple on one end and a point on the opposite end. A **deer bed** is a place where a deer likes to rest; look for an oval depression in the ground where leaves or grass are matted down.

## Wild Turkey

Can you count to three? Wild turkeys can. As male turkeys strut around, they often drag their wing tips on the ground leaving scrapes. Scrapes are also found where turkeys search for food.



Track



Scat



Scrape

Wild turkey scat is usually large and tubular with a slight curve on one end. Because their diets vary throughout the year depending on what foods are available, their scats vary in appearance and sometimes look like formless blobs.

## Black Bear

Bears tracks have large palm prints with five toes. Their tracks are sometimes capped with claw marks, and their hind-leg tracks leave heel impressions.



Track (Left/Hind)



Scat



Shredded Log

Like raccoons, bears are omnivores. Their scat varies in appearance depending on the time of year and what they have eaten - grasses in the spring, berries in the summer and insects from rotten logs in the fall.

## Bobcat

Cat tracks have four toes on both the front and back feet. Because cats have **retractable claws** (claws that draw back in to their paws), claw marks are usually not present in bobcat tracks.



Track (Left/Front)



Scat



Markings

Containing the hair and bones of their prey, bobcat scat is segmented and round on the ends. Although bobcats have retractable claws which helps keep them sharp, they sometimes sharpen their claws by scratching the trunk of a tree.

## Coyote

Coyote tracks are approximately 2.5 inches long, capped with claw marks and are found in pairs. Their toes are closer together and not as wide as the toes of dog tracks.



Track



Scat



Den and Scat

Coyotes are **opportunistic eaters**, meaning they'll eat almost anything, so their scat can take many forms. In general coyote scat is long, with a rope-like twist and pointed ends.