
Touch Tracks



Purpose:

- Students will become familiar with the tracks of several mammals found in Oregon.

Time Required: 15-20 minutes

Appropriate Grade Level: 1-6

NGSS Standards: None

Objectives:

- Students will identify how a mammal's foot creates a unique print by accurately matching three track molds to three mammal illustrations in small groups.

Materials:

- Track Replicas (18)
- Mammal Illustrations (11) (located with the "What is a Mammal?" Activity)
- Paper (not provided)
- Coloring pencils or markers (not provided)

Activity:

Introduction	<p>Introduce the idea that the shape of a foot (or paw, or hoof) is related to the shape of the print (or track) that is left behind.</p> <p>Have students remove one shoe and trace the outline of their foot on a piece of paper. Compare it with the shape of their own feet to illustrate this idea.</p> <p>This idea is also true for animals. Solicit suggestions or drawings of what tracks students may be familiar with, in particular cats and/or dogs.</p>
Body	<p>Divide students into small groups of 3-4. Hand out two or three sets of track replicas and their associated mammal illustrations to each group.</p> <p>Instruct the students to match each set of track replicas to an appropriate mammal, using the shape of the track, their personal knowledge, and any clues from the illustration.</p> <p>After 2-3 minutes, have the groups rotate their tracks and cards and if desired.</p>
Closure	<p>Ask each group to share one feature that helped them to match a track to a given animal. Examples include: Claws, size, shape, etc.</p>



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