

Animal Tracks

Connecting Through Play & Culture



Attributions

The CHILD Family Kits are a collaborative project under the Cultural Heritage Improves Learning & Development (CHILD) curriculum.

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BRIDGE - Borrow

Materials:



2 Books



Plush Hare



Binoculars



Animal Tracks cards
from Tiny Nest

Now is a great time to practice counting skills by making sure all of the materials are in the kit!

Family Message

Following a rainstorm or a good snowfall, discovering animal tracks can become a fascinating experience for all! Making predictions and talking about where the animal might live or where it's going can lead to wonderful conversations with your little one. On your next walk, keep your eyes open to see what types of tracks you can discover together!

This kit includes:

- Books to help with identifying a variety of animal tracks.
- A plush hare for snuggling while reading together or bounding through the snow.
- Binoculars to use while searching for tracks.
- Activities for exploring animals in your area.



Enjoy this journey in learning about Animal Tracks!

Got 5 minutes? Read a story or choose a short activity. If you have a larger amount of time, spend 20 minutes to complete the Moose Mask Design activity.

Story Time



Animal Track Activities



Design a Moose Mask



Career Connection



Scavenger Hunt:
Which animal tracks can you find?



BRIDGE - Read



Track that Scat!

Authors: Lisa Morlock
Illustrator: Carrie Anne Bradshaw

Picture Walk

Flip through the pages, without reading words, to highlight the illustrations and ask these guiding questions:

- What do you think this story will be about?
- What do you notice on the front cover?
- What types of animals did you notice throughout the story?

Sharing Stories

Find a comfy spot and snuggle up for story time!



Ask Engaging Questions

What do you think the word “scat” means?



What kinds of animal tracks have you seen before?

Can you guess what animal made these tracks?



What would your tracks look like?



Let's Read It Again!

Follow the Leader

Play a game to imitate certain tracks or movements of animals!



Visual Tracking

Use your finger to track the words across the page while reading together!

I see the moose tracks!



EARLY READING SKILL Tracking

By practicing the skill of moving one's eyes smoothly across the page, children develop an understanding that print progresses from left to right across the page which supports future reading fluency.

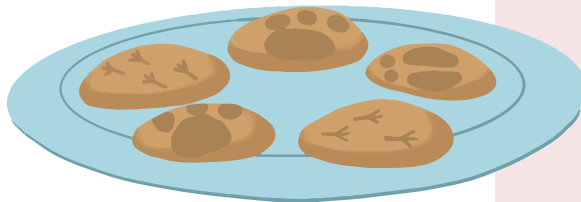


Moose Tracks, Mouse Tracks, Marten Tracks, Too!

Author: Jody Best

Terrific Tracks

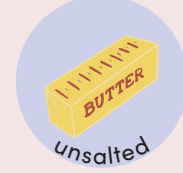
- What shapes do you notice in the animal tracks?
- Which direction is the animal moving: in a zig zag, straight line, or curving along?
- What differences do you notice between large animal tracks and small animal tracks?
- Which animal from the book would you like to learn more about and why?



Animal Tracks Cookies

What you'll need:

1 cup



2/3 cup



2 cups



1 tsp



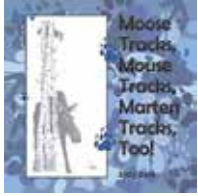
How to make:

- Prepare** dough by mixing butter and sugar together.
Add in flour and blend well.
Add in vanilla, if using, and blend.
Roll the dough into 1-inch balls.
Press your cookies into circles and place onto a baking sheet.
Create tracks by pressing fingers into dough to form shapes.
Bake at 325 for 14-16 min, or until golden brown.

CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Fine Motor

Manipulating tools and rolling dough supports early writing skills by developing tiny hand muscles.



Let's Read It Again!

Comparing Size and Shape

- ▶ Where could we look for tracks?
- ▶ What types of tools could you use to examine the tracks?
- ▶ Are the shapes in the tracks pointy, round, long, or short?
- ▶ What type of animal could have made this track?



The 5 Math Areas

Numbers & Counting

Patterns & Story Problems

Data Analysis & Probability

➤ **Measurement & Math Tools**

Shapes & Spatial Awareness



EARLY MATH SKILL Measurement

By investigating and making comparisons, we foster children's natural curiosity and encourage critical thinking, so they begin to answer questions about their surroundings.



BRIDGE - Investigate

Being Observant

Looking for and identifying a variety of animal tracks will open up a whole new, undiscovered world for your little one!



Identify Set of Tracks



Listen for Sounds



Notice Direction of Tracks

***Extra Tip:** Being observant can also be an extremely helpful skill when exploring outdoors. While animal tracks are cool to see, they are also an indication of animals that may be in the area.

Honoring Connections

Trapping was and still is, in many areas, a very common practice. Share about how your community or Alaska practices trapping.

- Recall a time or memory of an outdoor walk, in which you saw tracks of animals or signs of animal activity.
- Include details such as animal trails, types of tracks, and direction of travel.
- Reference the importance of staying safe.

Talk with a local trapper in your community. What types of animals can you observe in your community? Are there better places to find specific animals?

Estimating Height

Find and identify a set of tracks outdoors!

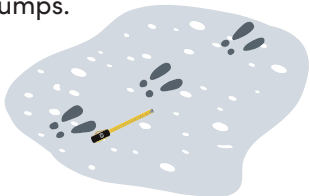
Summer and Fall Months:

Measure the width of the bear's front paw track and add an inch to estimate how tall it is in feet.



Winter Months:

Find a set of hare tracks and estimate the distance between jumps.



***Extra Fun:** Can you or your child copy the set of tracks?

Identifying Tracks

Examine a set of tracks and talk about patterning!

- What information can we find out by observing a set of animal tracks?
- Do you think the tracks belong to a large or small mammal?
- Which direction did the animals travel? Do they go in a straight line? Do they weave in and out of trees?



Outdoor Writing

What could you use to write letters in the sand?

M for Moose

B for Bear

H for Hare



BRIDGE - Design



M is for Moose and Mask

"I was thinking about how we can recycle to make artwork like this moose mask. I liked learning about mixing colors to make a colorful moose!"

See you next time! - Sawyer

...with **STEAM**

1 EXPLORE

Moose are herbivores. They only eat plants and are animals of prey (other animals eat them).

Animals of prey have eyes on the sides of their heads versus predator animals (like us!) with eyes in the front.



Science

Scientists know about predators and prey.

Collect Materials



Scissors



Tape



Knife
or Box Cutter



Paint



Bigger Box
(for head)



Smaller Box
(for nose)



Spare Thick
Cardboard
(for ears)

Ask your child whether each material is technology?
Have your child point to **technology** or **not**.



Guiding Questions:

Is it found in nature or invented by humans?
What is it made of? (discuss characteristics)
How is this tool helpful to humans?

Technology

Technology is human made instead of natural & is helpful to humans.



2 DESIGN

1 Select Boxes

In this art activity, we used a box to fit over Sawyer's head. It was slightly too small, so we cut a 'v' in the back to help slip over her head.



To make coloring easier, we turned the colored box inside out by cutting at the seams and folding the opposite direction then, sealing back with clear tape.

2 Make the Nose

Trace the nose where you would like it on the head of the mask, then use a knife to cut around.



Making the cut tight will help to keep the nose secured in place.

Engineering

3 CREATE

3 Make the Ears

We used a separate box to trace an outline of the moose ears.

Cut out one shape you're happy with then use it as a template to cut the other ear.



Show how you reflect the image of the ear to make another copy.

4 Insert the Ears

Cut slits into the top of the moose head with a knife to place ears.

Start off small and adjust as needed to make a tight fit.



PAINT to finish!

Fun Fact: Moose have enormous ears, about proportional to their noses!

Have your child observe and hold things to help you. Talk about moose while you work on making your mask.

4 OBSERVE

Art Focus: Color Mixing

Color can create moods and define emotions.

Often, children mix many different colors together thinking they'll get a nice bright rainbow and become disappointed when surprisingly they create a blob of brown or gray.



Discuss the three primary colors that cannot be made and how, when mixed with each other, they actually create a rainbow of colors!



Create a color wheel palette by beginning with just the primary colors: red, yellow, and blue. Experiment with mixing colors to discover the rainbow!

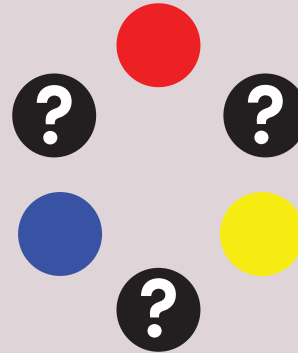
Art

Art is the expression of creative skill and imagination.

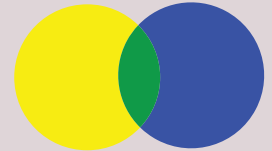
5 IMPROVE

Put 3 colors on a spare piece of cardboard (in a triangle).

- Which two colors would you like to use?
- What new color would these two colors make if added together?
- What happened?



*Mix starting with the lightest color and adding in the darker color.



For Next Time: If working with other sizes of boxes, the moose mask doesn't have to fit your child, it can also be a mask to hang on the wall!



Math

How can you improve your design using math?

BRIDGE - Grow

When I Grow Up...

Adventure Guides help people explore new places and learn new skills safely.

What is important to an Adventure Guide?

- ★ **Job Safety**
Adventure Guides follow wilderness safety rules and are skilled in first aid.
- ★ **Teamwork**
They encourage people to explore together and try new challenges.
- ★ **Practice**
They need to learn about the weather, animals, and their habitats.



I can be an Adventure Guide!

Adventure Guides can use planes, boats, bikes, skis, horses, or ATVs to explore nature safely and responsibly.

As I Grow...

I can be helpful.



BRIDGE - Explore

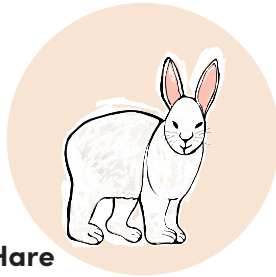
Explore the Language App!



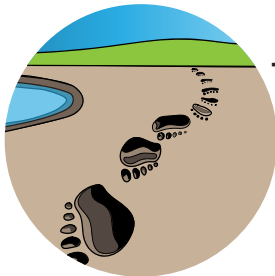
Can you find these words?



Moose



Hare



Tracks

What to Explore Next?

We hope you have enjoyed this theme! Here are some additional ways you can continue to explore.

Turn this card over for the links to access the activities below.

Alaska's Wild Wonders | Issue 2



Watch Molly of Denali | Reading the Map



Check Out Another BRIDGE Kit



References

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