

Winter Wildlife Series: Week Two: *Scat, Tracks, and Nests*

Vocabulary:

Scat: Animal droppings.

Tracks: An animal's footprints.

Habitat: A living thing's home or preferred environment.

Play Dough Footprints:

Materials:

Bowl, utensil for mixing, 1 cup of flour, ¼ cups of salt, 1 teaspoon of cream of tartar, ½ tablespoon of vegetable oil, ½ cup of warm water, food dye (*optional*), ziplock bag for storage. (*Makes one serving - recipe can also be adapted for large batches*)

Directions:

1. In your bowl mix together the flour, salt, and cream of tartar. Make a well in the middle.
2. Pour the oil and water into the well, if you are using food dye, add a few drops to the liquids once they are already in the bowl.
3. Mix and knead with either your hands or your utensil until it is a dough-like consistency. If it is too wet add more flour, if it is too crumbly add more cream of tartar, and if it is too dry add more oil and water.
4. Flatten out your play dough and make tracks in it. This play dough will not dry up so can you mash it back together and reroll it to experiment with all different kinds of tracks. Try handprints, footprints, deer and bunny prints, and whatever else you'd like.

Footprint Matching Game (PreK-2):

Materials:

Colored pencils

Directions:

1. Match the animal to its tracks by drawing a line connecting the two.
2. Color in the animals.

Scat and Tracks Discovery (3-5):

Materials:

Pencil, Colored pencils

Directions:

1. Design a brand new animal that you have just discovered and give it a name.
2. Think critically about what its footprints and scat would look like. Is it a big animal, or small? Does it eat meat, or is it an herbivore?
3. Draw your animal's scat and tracks in the bottom boxes.

Get Outside!

Put on your coat and boots and head on out, because we are going to track some animals. Do you see footprints in the snow, scat, or seed and nut shells? Don't forget to look up in the trees for nests! What kind of animals did you find evidence of?