



Campbell Creek Science Center

Animal Evidence Extravaganza

When an animal moves around in its habitat, it leaves behind clues that you can find. Head outside to a nature trail, your yard, or your neighborhood to look for evidence that animals were there. Remember to pay attention to your surroundings and stay wildlife safe and bear aware.

Directions

Below are some of the common animals you might find evidence of in Alaska. Look for as many signs as you can, checking things off as you go. What other animal evidence can you find? Have fun exploring!

1) Tracks: Tracks are footprints that animals leave whenever they walk, run, or hop. Different animals have different kinds of tracks. Animal tracks are easiest to find when there is snow, mud, or sand on the ground. What tracks can you find?

Materials

- Printout of this worksheet
- Pencil or pen

Questions

- Were you surprised by how much evidence of animals you could find? Why or why not?

Snowshoe Hare Track

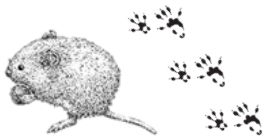


Moose Track



Draw a different track you find:

Vole Track



Black Bear Track



What animal is this evidence from?





2) Scat: Scat is a wild animal's droppings, or its poop. Biologists (scientists who study animals) look at scat to see what an animal is eating or to tell if it is healthy. Looking for scat also helps identify what animals move through an area. What animals are moving around in your area?

Snowshoe Hare Scat



Moose Scat



Draw or describe other scat you find:

What animal is this evidence from?

3) Browse: Herbivores are animals that only eat vegetation. They prefer to eat the nutritious leaves of a plant. During the winter months, some survive by eating the twig ends and inner bark of woody plants. They leave behind tooth marks. What part of a plant do you prefer to eat? How is that similar or different from what an herbivore eats?

Snowshoe Hare Browse



Moose Browse



Draw or describe other signs of browsing:

What animal is this evidence from?

4) Nests, Holes, and Burrows: Some animals use nests, holes, and burrows to raise their young, cache food, or find shelter from weather and predators. It can be hard to find these protected spots because the animals want them to stay secret. Where would you look to find one?

Squirrel Midden



Bird Nest



Woodpecker Hole



Draw a hole, nest, or burrow you find:

What animal is this evidence from?

