

Suggested activity location

Outdoors

Activity Time

Outdoors: 20-30 minutes

You will need

Info sheet
Recording sheet
Pencils
Clip boards

Instructions

Children can do this individually or in groups
Walk around a designated area of the park, looking for animal tracks
Once a track has been spotted, children can try to identify it, recording as many details as possible on the following sheet.

Curriculum links

World Around Us
The Arts

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Info Sheet

Whilst you are out and about in your park with the children, you may spot some natural track marks.

The table below is useful for identifying the tracks based on the number of digits and claw marks each track has.

Animal	Front toes	Hind toes	Extra info
Dog, fox	4	4	Claw marks
Cat	4	4	No claw marks
Mice	4	5	
Badger	5	5	Claw marks
Squirrels	4	5	They hop along – their large hind legs land in front of their smaller front feet. Their front feet land side by side
Rabbits	5	4	Similar to squirrels though their front feet do not land side by side
Bird	3	1	Are they webbed? Look for hopping movements

What direction are the claws pointing?

This will help you work out the direction the animal was going in. If there are no claw marks, look to see what way the soil has been pushed – soil that has been pushed back shows where the animal came from.

You can record the tracks using a camera or sketches.

Children can compare and discuss their drawings using the following recording sheet.

If you have time to place sand in an area of the park this is a great way to capture animal tracks. Speak to your Park Manager though before doing this. The Park staff may be able to assist you with this exercise. Contacts can be found on the following link:

<http://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/parksandopenspaces/A-Zparks.asp>

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Recording Tracks Activity

Pupil / Group name: _____

Fill in the table below with details of the animal track you have spotted.

Track	How many feet	How many toes on front foot?	How many toes on back foot?	Any claw marks	Direction animal walking	Possible creature	Draw the track you have found
1.							
2.							
3.							

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