

Build Your Own Animal Tracks



Making your own animal tracks can help learn about different wildlife, but also create wonderful works of art. This activity will teach you to build your own animal footprint stamps at home or in the classroom.

Getting Started – It's Easy!

Who: Upper Elementary and Middle School

Where: Indoor or Outdoor Classroom, At Home

Materials: Print or drawing of animal tracks, pencil, cardboard (preferably thick), scissors, glue, paper, paint brushes, and paint

Length of time: 15-30 minutes

Lessons to pair it with: Signs of Winter Wildlife Program, Animal Track Stories Activity

Note *Adult supervision is highly recommended. Always use caution when cutting with scissors! Protective material such as cardboard or paper should be put down to protect the work surface.*

Instructions:

1. Research what animal track you want to make. Then print or draw the tracks on paper.
2. On thick cardboard, trace a $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ inch border around your print, this will be the backing that holds the print components in place.
3. Trace the outline of your tracks on cardboard multiple times, you need to trace more of them the thinner your cardboard is. (If your animal has claws, then trace approximate claw size and shape.)
4. Cut out the backing you first traced from the cardboard. Cut out the footprint from the cardboard.
5. Glue the foot-print components onto the backing. If you have thinner cardboard, then layer print pieces until approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick. Let the glue dry for at least 15 minutes before using your stamp.
6. Once the glue is dry, you can use a brush to apply a thick layer of paint to your stamp.
7. When you transfer the painted print onto paper try to press straight down and pull straight up to avoid smudging any edges.



Alternative Methods:

- Pick up some inexpensive sponges from the store and cut tracks out of the sponge. You can rinse and reuse the sponge multiple times.
- Large erasers can also be used; however, they can be tough to cut through. If you plan on using erasers, then an adult should cut using a sharper blade instead of scissors.
- Materials like playdough and modeling clay can also be used to form animal tracks.

