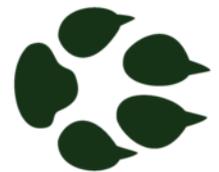


# Animal Track Investigation

Create your own puzzle showing a wildlife scenario through animal signs. Then, let someone solve the mystery as to what happened in your puzzle. You can use a blank piece of paper, poster board, or even an old bed sheet or tablecloth. Draw, color, or paint your animal signs and even gather props such as sticks or rocks to add to your mystery puzzle. To help you get started, below are a few examples of puzzles to create.

Share your animal track puzzles with us!



This activity was inspired by the Wildlife Investigators Activity. For more activities and information follow this link:  
[file:///C:/Users/vne37559/Desktop/Animal%20Signs/Wildlife%20Scene%20Investigators%20Curriculum%20-%20Current\(2\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/vne37559/Desktop/Animal%20Signs/Wildlife%20Scene%20Investigators%20Curriculum%20-%20Current(2).pdf)

# Animal Track Puzzles

1. A Bobcat was walking along (lower right to upper left). Later, a red fox was walking through the tracks and smelled the former presence of the bobcat. The fox followed the tracks for a little while before noticing a cottontail rabbit. The fox then chased the rabbit.

Time of day: Early Morning

Brushy/wooded area

2. Two Cottontails were feeding in a slightly open air near some brushy. A Red Tail Hawk flew in and got one rabbit. The other got away.

Mid-morning

Brushy/meadow area

3. A squirrel was munching on some acorns, and then took a few up to his nest in the tree. Later, from the same tree, a raccoon emerged from its nest. There is evidence of raccoon scat on a nearby log. You can see it headed down to the creek. You can see the tracks of a Coyote meandering through the wooded area but as it approaches the stream, it spots a Beaver. After an evident quarrel between the two, drag marks from the Coyote's meal are apparent.

Twilight, a few hours after night fall

Woodland near stream

4. Large tracks below to a Bear. He comes up to a log, and begins to dig finding grubs and other small bugs to munch on. The sudden appearance of the other set of tracks is from a Turkey flying in and munching on some seeds. The feather is a clue.

Morning

Wooded area

# Examples:

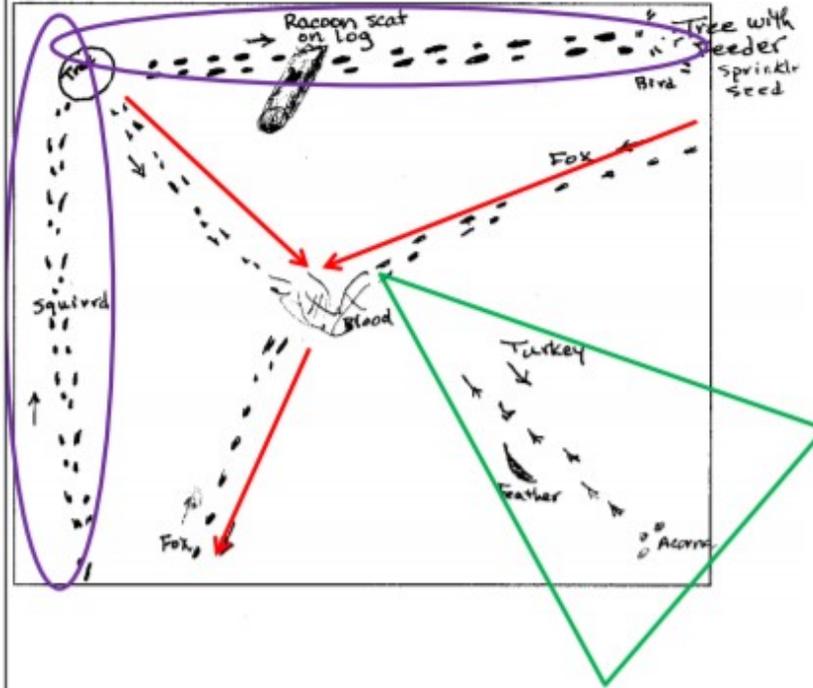
## Puzzle #1

**Tracks:** squirrel, raccoon, fox, turkey and rabbit.

**Other signs:** replica raccoon scat, bird feeder seeds, blood (really food coloring), turkey feather, acorns

**Observations to Note:**

- Tracks going toward tree are not the same tracks as the ones leaving the tree: squirrel climbed up, sleeping raccoon came down and left scat on log.
- Rabbit leaving the base of the tree encounters a fox. Fox kills rabbit, carries it off to its den... no more rabbit track leaving the scene.
- Tracks appear to start out of thin air...feather and acorns clue to turkey coming in to feed.



## Examples:

### Puzzle #2

**Tracks:** squirrel, mouse, fox, turkey, deer, and rabbit.

**Other signs:** replica deer & rabbit scat, real owl pellet (in sealed container), rabbit blood (food coloring), owl wing marks in "snow", turkey feathers, mouse gnawed bone, mouse hole, rabbit chew, bird feeder seeds.

**Observations to Note:**

- Owl flew in, grabbed rabbit with talons...flew away...no rabbit tracks gone but wing marks visible.
- Deer walked through scene.
- Turkey stopped at bird feeder to eat.
- Squirrel entered scene at the base of the tree...climbed up.
- Mouse gnawing on bone jumps into tunnel...escapes fox.

