



FORT EDMONTON PARK DIGITAL EDUCATION KITS



TREATY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is important as we move through these activities that we ground this learning and recognize the Indigenous peoples who first called this place home.

We would like respectfully acknowledge that Fort Edmonton Park, and the greater Edmonton area is located on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous peoples including the including the Cree, Dene, Sauteaux, Blackfoot and Nakota Sioux, Metis and Inuit and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

Before beginning this education kit, we encourage you to read out loud the Land Acknowledgement.





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TREATY LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

“We honour and give thanks to the many Nations on whose historical and traditional lands Edmonton was founded, including the Cree, Dene, Sauteaux, Blackfoot and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge and embrace the fact that we are on the traditional land of Treaty 6 territory and the traditional Métis homeland. We acknowledge all the diverse Indigenous people, whose ancestors’ footsteps have marked this territory for centuries - from First Nations, Métis, Inuit and now settlers from around the world.”





FORT EDMONTON PARK DIGITAL EDUCATION KITS

ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

Tansi, Welcome!

For Indigenous Peoples there are many important land based teachings, some of these lessons that are still important today come from our animal relatives.

From snowshoes modeled after animals feet to help them move through the snow, following deer trails to find easiest passage, to learning animals behaviors and patterns to help find food and important medicines, there are lots of essential lessons to be gathered from our environment and from our furry neighbours.

Take a walk to the River Valley, or explore your neighbourhood and see what you can learn!





ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD



***FOR EDUCATORS:**

**USE THIS GUIDE AS A REFERENCE FOR WHEN
YOU ARE EXPLORING WITH YOUR STUDENT(S).
FEEL FREE TO CUT OUT, ADD IN OR ADAPT THIS
INFORMATION!**



There are lots of animals out and about in the winter; can you spot which animals live in your neighbourhood?

Use their tracks (footprints) in the snow to find out!



ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

Here is a list of Animal tracks you are likely
to see and their Cree Names

*When you find these tracks, use the pronunciation
guide to learn these words*

Coyote - mēscacākanis (me-sca-ta-ga-nis)

Hare / Rabbit - wâpos (waa-pos)

Beaver - amisk (a-misk)

Squirrel - ankwacâs (ank-gwa-cas)

Deer - apisimôsos (a-pis-mo-sis)

Dog - atim (a-tim) **Mouse** - apakosis (a-pak-cis)

Cat - minos (min-os)

Crow - ahaso (a-ha-so)

Porcupine - kâkwa (kak-wa)





ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

Other Signs of Animals

How else can you tell besides footprints that animals have been around?

Look for:

Signs of feeding: empty seed shells (squirrel middens), beaver-chewed wood, holes in wood (from woodpeckers), scraped wood (bears or skunks hunting for insects) feathers or bones
Nests or homes: flattened grass, holes in ground (or snow), Bits of fur, feathers, scales, quills left behind
Scat!

What is that?

It's what we call animal poop! Other names include droppings, feces, and dung.



ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD



How Do Animals Adapt for Winter?

Like humans, animals change for the cold winter, what else is different about them?

Thick fur or feathers- acts as insulation by trapping warm air next to the skin. e.g., coyotes, wolves, lynx

White hairs or feathers- Act as camouflage. e.g, hares and rabbits, snowy owl, weasels.

Long legs- animals save energy when walking because their long legs can be lifted straight up and the animal does not have to push through the snow e.g., moose and deer.





ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

Camouflage- animals can hide from prey or predators
e.g., weasel, snowshoe hare, arctic fox, lynx

Migration- animals leave for warmer climates where
food is more accessible e.g., ducks, geese, caribou

Hibernation- animals slow metabolism and other body
processes and sleep away the winter e.g., bears and
squirrels

Eating different food and more of it- animals change
diets in the winter to what is available and eat more often
to have enough energy to produce body heat e.g., blue
jays, magpies, squirrels, coyotes, deer

Hanging out in the subnivean layer- animals spend time
in the (layer of air between the ground and the snow) that
is warmer than the snow above. e.g., mice, voles





ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

Activity- Walk like the Animals

Animals move differently than humans, can you walk like these animals?

Straight-walking is the most common gait for felines (house cats, bobcats), canines (dog, fox, coyote), and ungulates (deer, cow, sheep, moose).

Hopping is the gait used by cottontail rabbits, snowshoe hares, squirrels, chipmunks, mice, voles, and shrews.

Waddlers are mostly heavy-set mammals such as beavers, porcupines, muskrats, raccoons, skunks, and bears. **Bounding** is the common gait for most of the weasel family – short and long-tailed weasel, mink, otter, marten, and fisher.





ANIMAL TRACKINGS

IN THE WILD

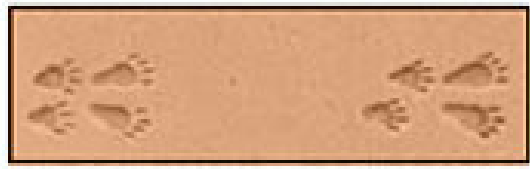
ANIMAL TRACK GUIDE

Paintings by Erick Ingraham
Tracks are not to scale.

White Footed Mouse



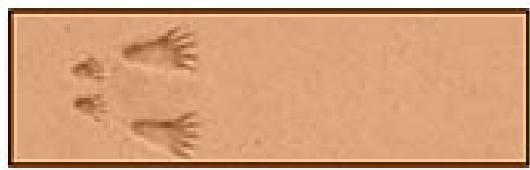
Long-tailed Weasel



Common Porcupine



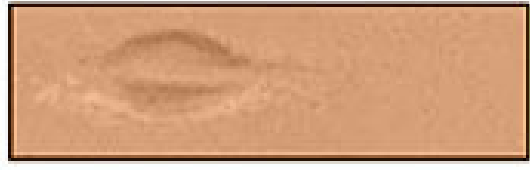
Gray Squirrel



Eastern Chipmunk



Moose



Black Bear



American Beaver





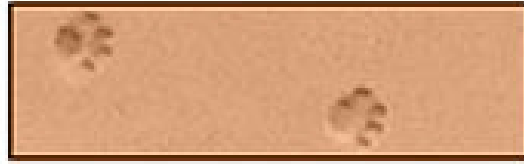
ANIMAL TRACKINGS

IN THE WILD ANIMAL TRACK GUIDE

Gray Wolf



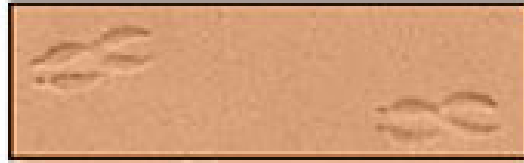
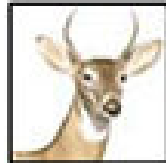
Lynx



Striped Skunk



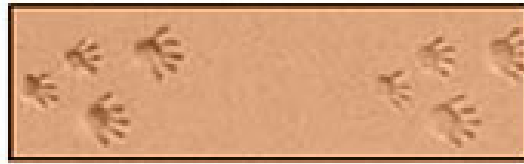
White-tailed Deer



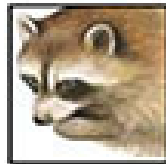
Red Fox



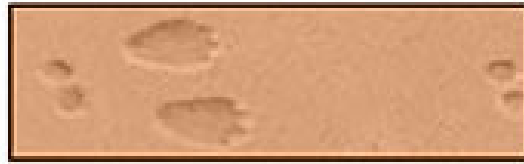
Red Squirrel



Common Raccoon



Snowshoe Hare

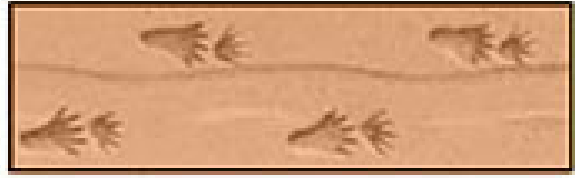




ANIMAL TRACKINGS IN THE WILD

ANIMAL TRACK GUIDE

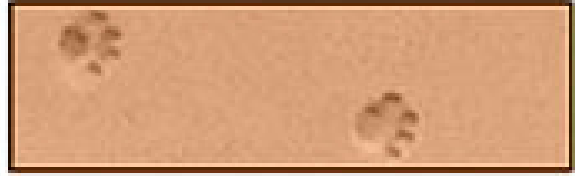
American Beaver



Gray Wolf



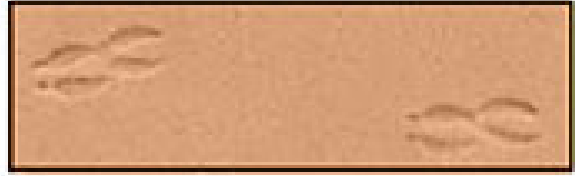
Lynx



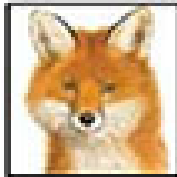
Striped Skunk



White-tailed Deer



Red Fox



Red Squirrel

