








# MAKIN' TRACKS

You can make your own tracks to compare with friends, your pet, or one of the Nature Cat gang! Using paint, crayons or play dough, make YOUR nature tracks to create an artistic masterpiece!

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## MAKIN' TRACKS WITH PAINT!




### DIFFICULTY: EASY

When you walk in wet sand, snow or mud, you leave behind a footprint. Animals do, too! We call those prints, "tracks." Next time you're exploring, look for tracks on the ground!

You can also make your own tracks to compare with friends, your pet, or one of the Nature Cat gang! Using paint, make YOUR nature tracks to create an artistic masterpiece!



## MATERIALS

-  Non-toxic, washable paint (e.g. washable finger paint)
-  Shallow containers
-  Colored paper pieces, or roll of paper (if you want to make a path of tracks)



## CAPTURE YOUR TRACKS

- 1** Lay your paper on a flat surface on the ground and place something, such as a rock, on each of the four corners.
- 2** Dip your feet into the paint and walk, skip or hop across the paper.
- 3** Wash off your feet!
- 4** Add your handprints to the paper. Be creative!
- 5** Invite a friend to join you!



## MAKIN' TRACKS WITH PLAY DOUGH!




### DIFFICULTY: EASY

When you walk in wet sand, snow or mud, you leave behind a footprint. Animals do, too! We call those prints, "tracks." Next time you're exploring, look for tracks on the ground!

You can also make your own tracks to compare with friends, your pet, or one of the Nature Cat gang! Using play dough, make YOUR nature tracks to create an artistic masterpiece!



## MATERIALS

-  Play dough
-  Rolling pin
-  Washable paint and paintbrush (optional)



## CAPTURE YOUR TRACKS

- 1** Make two balls with your dough.
- 2** Roll out each dough ball on a flat surface until it is a little bit bigger than your foot.
- 3** Ready? Press your hand into one piece of the dough.
- 4** Now repeat with a foot (or a patient pet.)
- 5** Let it dry and add some color with paint!



## MAKIN' TRACKS WITH CRAYONS!






### DIFFICULTY: EASY

When you walk in wet sand, snow or mud, you leave behind a footprint. Animals do, too! We call those prints, "tracks." Next time you're exploring, look for tracks on the ground!

You can also make your own tracks to compare with friends, your pet, or one of the Nature Cat gang! Using crayons or markers, make YOUR nature tracks to create an artistic masterpiece!



## MATERIALS

-  Crayons or markers
-  Colored paper pieces
-  Poster board (if you want to make a collage of tracks!)
-  Safety scissors
-  Tape or glue



## CAPTURE YOUR TRACKS

- 1** Hold your hand very still and ask a friend or an adult to trace your hand with the crayon.
- 2** Switch places!
- 3** Now trace your foot.
- 4** Color in your tracks however you like!
- 5** Add Nature Cat, Squeeks, Hal and Daisy's footprints to your masterpiece!

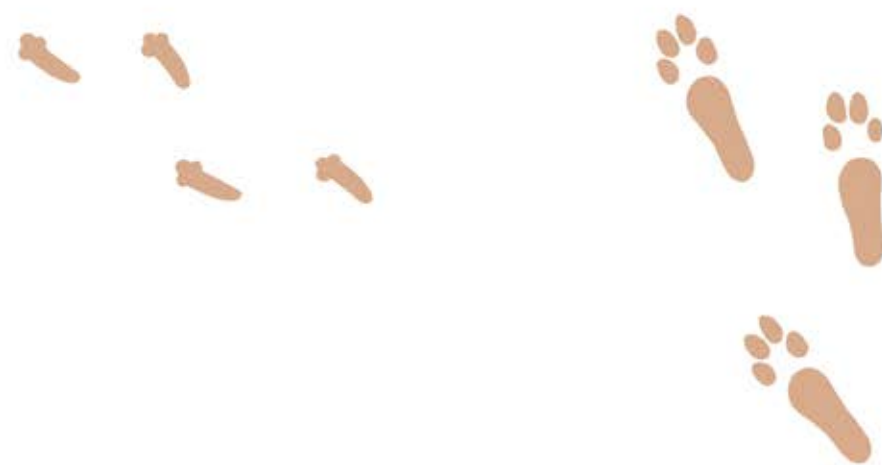


# TIME FOR A CLOSER LOOK

A trail of small, light brown paw prints leads from the top right towards the center of the page.

Tracks are special! Let's take a closer look at the track you just made! You can compare your tracks with your friend's, an adult's, a pet's, and, of course, the Nature Cat crew. What surprises do *you* see?

Here are some questions and ideas to get you started!

- 1** What is the shape of your foot? Now compare it to the foot track you made! How is it the same? How is it different?
  - 2** How is your track like your friend's? How is it different?
  - 3** What differences do you see between Hal's print and Nature Cat's? What differences do you see between your track and Daisy's and Squeeks'?
  - 4** Who has the widest track?
  - 5** Let's count toes and claws!
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- A collection of various brown footprints and paw prints scattered across the lower right portion of the page, including some large, distinct prints and some smaller, more delicate ones.






Make nature tracks with other materials!

## BONUS ACTIVITY FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

After kids have made their own tracks, you can help them safely capture animal tracks for further observation and comparison. This activity will work in a backyard or in a schoolyard.



## MATERIALS

-  Soft powder (flour, for example)
-  Heavy paper or cardboard (dark colored is best for contrast)
-  Four small heavy items (e.g. rocks), or tape
-  Treat (e.g. sunflower seeds, peanuts, or a small ball of peanut butter with an apple slice)
-  Printout of animal tracks



**1** Choose a place that will be protected from the wind, won't be disturbed by people and is a likely spot for animal activity (e.g. base of a tree).

**2** Lay your paper and weigh or tape down the four corners, if necessary. (Smooth pavement, brick or stone instead of paper will also work.)



**3** Coat the surface with the powder and make it as smooth as possible.



**4** For best results, leave the treat in the center of the paper.



**5** It's waiting time! Remember that animals are often shy around people. Be patient and leave the area. Check back after a few hours, or the following morning.

**6** Success! Snap a photo of your tracks and compare it to your examples. Talk about what you see and try to identify the visitor by comparing the captured tracks to the animal track sheet.



# CHARACTER TRACKS





# OTHER ANIMAL TRACKS



CAT



DOG



FOX



SQUIRREL



RACCOON



DEER



CROW



TURKEY