**Animal Tracks**

**Vocabulary:**

Adaptation- a change to be better suited in a certain habitat  
Classification- to arrange in groups  
Digitigrade- animals that walk on their toes (cats and dogs)  
Imprint- to make a mark by pressing on a surface  
Pelt- an animal skin with the fur or hair still on it  
Plantigrade- animals that walk with the entire sole of the foot on the ground (ex. Bears, people)  
Scat- poo left by a wild animal  
Shelter- something that provides protection and cover  
Track- mark left by something that has passed; to follow the footprints of something that has passed  
Unguligrade- animals that walk on hooves/fingernails (deer and horses)

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**Writing Topic:**

Settlers to Illinois found new animals when they arrived. How did these animals help the settlers survive?

**Reading:**

Little House in the Big Woods, Chapter 1, Little House on the Prairie, Chapter 14

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**Make Your Own Animal Tracks**

Trace animal track patterns out onto craft foam. Carefully cut them out. Glue the foam animal tracks to the bottom of dollar store flip-flops. Once wearing the flip-flops, dip your feet into paint and walk across a sheet of butcher block paper. Another option if it is winter is to put them on and take a walk outside in the snow.

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**Specific Standards:**

3-LS4-2: Use evidence to construct an explanation for how the variations in characteristics among individuals of the same species may provide advantages in surviving, finding mates, and reproducing.  
3-LS4-3: Construct an argument with evidence that in a particular habitat some organisms can survive well, some survive less well, and some cannot survive at all.  
SS.G.2.3: Compare how people modify and adapt to the environment and culture in our community to other places.  
SS.H.2.3: Describe how significant people, events, and developments have shaped their own community and region.
Animal Tracks

- **Moose**: 11.5 - 14 cm
- **Dog**: 6 - 10 cm
- **Cottontail Rabbit**: h 10 cm / f 2.5 cm
- **White Tailed Deer**: 6.5 - 7.5 cm
- **House Cat**: 3 cm
- **White Footed Mouse**: h 1.5 cm / f 0.5 cm
- **Coyote**: f 6 cm / h 6.5 cm
- **Otter**: 8 cm
- **Beaver**: h 15 cm / f 7.5 cm
- **Muskrat**: h 4.5 cm / f 2.5 cm
- **Gray Fox**: h 4.5 cm / f 4 cm
- **Black Bear**: h 18 - 23 cm / f 11.5 cm
- **Gray Squirrel**: h 5 cm / f 1.4 cm
- **Opossum**: h 5 cm / f 4.5 cm
- **Weasel**: h 4 cm / f 2.5 cm
- **Porcupine**: h 7.5 cm / f 6.5 cm
- **Bobcat**: 2 cm
- **Raccoon**: h 10 cm / f 6.5 cm
- **Woodchuck**: h 6 cm / f 5 cm
- **Striped Skunk**: h 4 cm / f 4 cm
- **Mink**: 4 cm