

WINTER 2011

BRIGHT SPARKS

Igniting the Fire of Knowledge and Safety in Our Community!

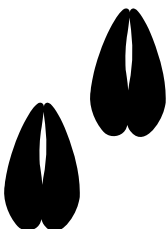
Follow that footprint, paw print, hoof print...

Winter is the perfect time to put on your detective hat and follow some animal tracks. You can do this in your yard, neighborhood, or head out to a state park or forest. Pick a day right after a snowfall and see how many different types of tracks you can find.



Hints to Get You Started!

1. Think about what kind of animals live in the area. This will help you narrow down the types of tracks you're looking at. It's a pretty good bet that if you're looking in your backyard, you'll find squirrel, bird, rabbit, bear, elk, deer, fox and maybe coyote.
2. Four toes on each of the front and hind feet means you're looking at a track from the dog family (fox, wolf, coyote, neighborhood dog) or the cat family (bobcat, mountain lion, neighborhood cat). Does the paw print have triangular marks in front of it? If yes, those are claw marks. Raccoons, skunks, coyotes, foxes and dogs will often leave claw marks. Cats, on the other hand, retract their claws when they walk or run, so you won't usually find claw marks.
3. Four toes on the front and five toes on the back foot means it's a rodent (mice, vole, squirrel). If the track has five toes on the front and back, it's from a raccoon or a bear.
4. If you find a two-toe track it's probably a deer or elk.
5. Is the track made by a "hopper?" Squirrels leave interesting tracks. As they bound along, their larger hind feet land ahead of their smaller front feet. It looks like the front feet are side by side. Rabbit tracks are similar, but the front feet are not found right next to each other.
6. What direction is your animal going? How can you tell? If your animal has claws it's pretty easy...claw marks point in the direction the animal was going. If there aren't any claw marks, see if you can see where the snow is pushed back by the animal's feet. The pushed back areas show the direction the animal came from.



Let It Snow, Let it Snow, Let it Snow!

Let's make a Snow Globe! Made from recycled jars, you can give your globe a theme or use a favorite character or animal, such as Spiderman, Dinosaurs, or even Frosty the Snowman!!!

What You'll Need:

- Any jar with a lid
- Florist clay
- Small figurines
- Hot glue gun
- Plastic greenery, berries, etc.
- Glitter
- Ribbon or Felt

How to Make it:

1. Wash and dry your jar completely.
2. Attach figurines to inside of jar lid using florist clay. Build up the clay until you have the height where you want it. Attach any optional items with the clay. Make sure whatever you use is waterproof and won't dissolve.
3. Fill jar with cold water to within 1/2 inch of top. Sprinkle 1/2 teaspoon of glitter, or "snow" to water.
4. Using a hot glue gun, line inside of lid with glue. Insert figurine in water and screw on lid. Dab lid dry if water dripped or spilled. Apply a layer of hot glue around the rim of the lid to seal shut.
5. Let stand and dry overnight, lid side up.
6. Decorating the rim with ribbon or felt.



Be creative and have fun!

Fire Extinguishers Go Everywhere!



Every **Home** Should Have **One** or **More** Fire Extinguishers!!!

Where . . . Your Family's Kitchen, the Garage, the Car, etc.

* Have your parents, or **Foothills Fire** show you how to properly work a Fire Extinguisher. *

Remember . . . **PASS**

- P** - PULL TAB
- A** - AIM
- S** - SQUEEZE
- S** - SWEEP

Did You Know...

Hey kids, did you know that every snowflake is a unique, six-sided crystal. But how they manifest themselves can be quite different, from a light, powdery shower, to a raging blizzard.

Types of Snow include:

- **Wet Snow** - forms a snowball or a snowman, and is usually the most popular snow for kids of all ages.
- **Powdered Snow** - is what skiers look for - light and fluffy.
- **Crust** - occurs when sunlight or freezing rain melts, then refreezes the top layer of snow.
- **Snirt** - is a combination of snow and dirt, most commonly found when winds pick up dirt and drop it on top of fresh snowfall.
- **Lake Snow** - happens when cold winter winds pass over a large body of water whose temperature has not yet dropped significantly. Winds pick up water vapor from the warm lakes. As they move over the colder land, the water vapor freezes and can drop amazing amounts of snow on an area in a very short time.

WINTER WORD SEARCH



W	E	A	T	H	E	R	W	G	S	F	P	S	F	M
O	H	J	V	O	L	J	O	N	J	V	H	N	J	J
K	F	R	A	C	S	M	E	O	K	O	L	O	M	G
D	R	H	B	P	T	T	D	P	V	B	P	W	W	N
I	E	L	J	Q	T	O	I	E	L	J	Q	F	O	I
W	E	P	N	I	W	K	L	I	P	N	S	L	K	T
S	Z	Q	M	W	Q	D	S	D	Q	M	F	A	D	A
N	I	A	K	S	B	I	U	W	A	K	F	K	I	K
A	N	S	L	I	D	E	I	S	S	L	U	E	W	S
M	G	W	J	C	D	L	L	A	W	J	M	D	S	W
W	W	X	I	D	S	N	O	W	X	I	R	B	U	X
O	C	C	U	F	D	D	P	C	C	U	A	D	D	C
N	V	D	O	M	G	G	N	I	D	D	E	L	S	D
S	B	E	P	I	C	C	R	E	T	N	I	W	C	E
F	S	L	I	P	P	E	R	Y	R	T	A	H	H	R

See how many of these words you can find in the puzzle. The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

- | | | | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. Snow | 5. Shovel | 9. Slippery | 13. Scarf |
| 2. Snowman | 6. Cold | 10. Slide | 14. Hat |
| 3. Winter | 7. Freezing | 11. Sledding | 15. Earmuffs |
| 4. Weather | 8. Snowflake | 12. Skating | 16. Mittens |