



Animal Track Patterns

Activity

When first trying to identify an animal track, you should consider the track pattern. There are four unique track patterns which will help you narrow down the group of animals that are responsible for the print.

1) Walkers – have a uniform walking pattern, where the left front and right back move in unison, and vice versa. Their rear paw/hoof will land in the spot where their front paw previously fell, so this gait leaves a zig-zag pattern that is easy to spot.



2) Waddlers – move one foot at a time. Their rear foot does not land in the print of front foot. Their track is comprised of four prints.



3) Hoppers – move by placing their rear feet slightly ahead of their front feet and pushing off so their front feet land first and their back feet land in front.



4) Bounders – only one set of feet on the ground at a time. They place their front feet down, and in one motion they leap forward by lifting up their front feet and putting their rear feet in the exact spot where the front feet previously landed. Their tracks appear as two paws that fall side-by-side.



Determine what type of track pattern each of the animals to the right should leave and place the number of that pattern type (1-4) next to it.



Otter		Deer	
Rabbit		Bobcat	
Raccoon		Chipmunk	
Bear		Porcupine	
Weasel		Moose	
Fox		Beaver	
Mink		Skunk	