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TRACKS AND TRACES – Designs of Nature – SLIDE SHOW SCRIPT (Grades K-2)

1. TRACKS IN FIELD

It's fun to be a detective, putting together clues that tell a story. We can play detectives when we examine animal signs. The tracks and traces we find can help us figure out where the animals have been and what they've been doing.

2. RABBIT TRACK

Sometimes tracks are fairly clear, as with these rabbit footprints. You can see the toe prints, and notice that the hind feet are much larger than the front feet. Can you tell which direction this rabbit was hopping? (**hint: hind footprints go BEFORE the front footprints!**)

3. BLURRED RABBIT TRACKS

But tracks aren't always so easy to read. As the sun melts the snow, the tracks change. Now they look like "Bigfoot!"

4. DOG TRACK

The overall shape of a print tells a lot. An oval print with toenail marks belongs to a member of the dog family, such as a fox, a coyote, or – Rover.

5. CAT TRACK

A round print with no nails belongs to a member of the cat family. It's most likely left by a house cat, but it could be a bobcat, or even a lynx.

6. DEER PRINT

A print with only two toes was probably left by a deer. The pointed ends of the toes show which direction the deer was walking. If the track is very large, 4 inches or more, it was left by the largest member of the deer family – a moose.

7. BIRD PRINTS

Can you guess what sort of animal made these tracks? (*a bird*) How can you tell? (*3 toes in front and 1 in back*)

8. RACCOON TRACKS IN MUD

Habitat, or the place where you find the tracks, is also an important clue. This animal has been hunting near the water and has five toes that look a lot like a human hand. These tracks were left by...

9. RACCOON

...a raccoon.

10. MEADOW VOLE TRACKS

These tiny trails were made by small rodents called **voles**, as they searched for food in the meadow.

11. GNAWED TREE
Animals may leave other traces besides footprints. This gnawed stump is a good clue. Who do you think was here? (*a beaver*)
12. RED SQUIRREL TRACKS
You may have seen tracks like these in your own backyard, perhaps at the base of a tree. The creature who left them...
13. CONE SCALES
...also left behind this collection of scales from a cone. Any ideas who ate a meal here?
14. RED SQUIRREL
It was this hungry little red squirrel!
15. CHEWED BARK
The bark of this tree has been eaten...
16. SCAT AND QUILLS
...by the same animal who left these signs. What signs do you see? (*droppings and quills*) Do you know who left them?
17. PORCUPINE
It was this fellow, a porcupine. These creatures eat a lot of tree bark during the winter.
18. RABBIT BROWSE
The neat, clean way this branch has been snipped off tells you that a rabbit, with four sharp front teeth, has been nibbling.
19. DEER BROWSE
Here, however, we see where a deer has been browsing. Because deer have no upper front teeth, they have to tear their food. This leaves a rough end on the twigs.
20. SNOWSHOER
So, when you are tracking, look down and all around. A good detective learns to use both tracks and traces to take a peek into the secret lives of wild animals.

And don't forget to notice the tracks and traces that you've left behind!