

WILDLIFE Box

Objectives

Students will learn the following:

- > Different types of animal tracks, incl. dog vs. cat prints
- > Other ways to identify animals
- > Animal homes
- > Animal migration
- > The food chain
- > Hands-on activities (journaling, measure your stride, using binoculars, etc.)
- > Global Feature and National Park Spotlight
- > Empathy around animal cruelty

Materials

These or similar materials are included in the box:

- > Animal tracking cards
- > Waterproof journal and pencil
- > Adjustable binoculars
- > Measurement tape
- > Splash box

Discussion

You may want to use the following as a discussion guide with your child:

- > Where are some great places to find animal tracks?
- > What are different ways to tell which types of animals may be around?
- > What are some of the benefits of nature journaling?
- > Why is it important to always keep your distance from wild animals?
- > How might changes in the food chain affect us?
- > What do you know about animal migration?

Evaluation

Test your child's newfound knowledge with the following questions:

- > Will all tracks look like the ones shown in the booklet or resource cards?
- > Should you use a single characteristic to identify a track?
- > What is scat? Should you ever pick it up?
- > Name a few animals and the type of homes they live in.
- > How nutrients are passed from one creature to another is called what?
- > Should you ever look at the sun using binoculars?
- > Is it good to startle a bear? What can you do to make sure a bear hears you coming?
- > Aside from a track, what else can you use to provide clues about who or what you are tracking?

Vocabulary*

*provided by the Merriam-Webster Dictionary

Carnivore – An animal (such as a dog, fox, crocodile, or shark) that feeds primarily or exclusively on animal matter. CONTEXT: Carnivores often prey on herbivores.

Food Chain – An arrangement of the organisms of an ecological community according to the order of predation in which each uses the next (usually lower) member as a food source. CONTEXT: The survival of one animal depends on their food source, which may be plants or another animal.

Habitat – The place or environment where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives and grows. CONTEXT: The habitat can give you clues as to what animals may live in the area.

Herbivore – An animal that feeds on plants. CONTEXT: These types of animals only eat plants, such as cows, sheep, or deer.

Journal – A record of experiences, ideas, or reflections kept regularly for private use. CONTEXT: Using a journal when out exploring is a great way to keep a record of what you found or saw.

Migration – To move from one country, place, or locality to another. Or for animals specifically: To pass, usually periodically, from one region or climate to another for feeding or breeding. CONTEXT: Many birds fly to warmer climates during the winter to escape the cold.

Omnivore – Feeding on both animal and vegetable substances. CONTEXT: Humans are the classic omnivore as we eat both plants and animals.

Scat – An animal fecal dropping. CONTEXT: Scat can be used to help determine which type of animal you are tracking.

Stride – A long step. CONTEXT: The distance between an animal's stride can often tell you how big the animal is.

Track – A footprint whether recent or fossil. CONTEXT: Footprints can help determine which animal made them.
