



WILDLIFE INVESTIGATORS!

Can YOU tell who's been in your backyard?

WHO HAS BEEN SNACKING ON THIS LEAF? AN INSECT! MARKS LIKE THIS LET US KNOW BUGS HAVE BEEN PRESENT...AND HUNGRY.



ANIMAL POOP, OR SCAT CAN BE A GREAT WAY TO FIND OUT WHICH ANIMAL HAS BEEN THERE! CHECK OUT OUR SCAT GUIDE TO TRY AND ID ANY THAT YOU FIND!



SOMEONE HAS BEEN HOPPING HERE! CHECKING SNOW AND MUD CAN BE A GREAT WAY TO FIND ANIMAL FOOTPRINTS, OR TRACKS. CHECK THE TRACK GUIDE IN THIS TOOLKIT FOR SOME EASY IDS!



HOW COOL ARE THESE PATTERNS? THESE ARE MADE BY HUNGRY BUGS MUNCHING AWAY ON THE WOOD! LOOKING UNDER OR INSIDE A LOG CAN HELP YOU FIND THE CRITTER WHO LEFT THESE SQUIGGLES.

DID YOU FIND TRACKS? CHECK WHO MAY HAVE LEFT THEM HERE!

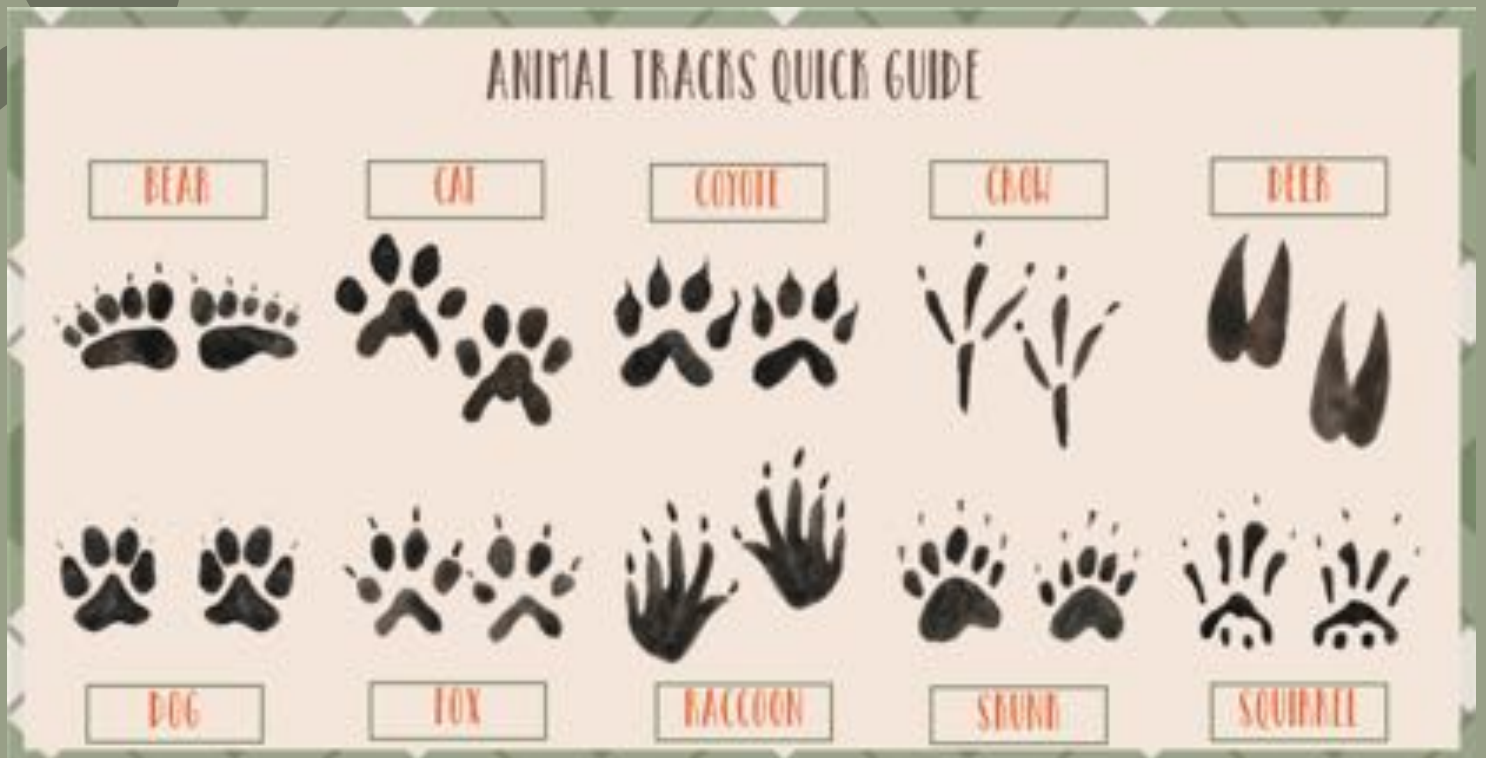


photo source: explorationamerica.com

A FEW KEY THINGS TO LOOK FOR:

- DO YOU SEE CLAW MARKS? IF YOU DO NOT, THEN IT IS MOST LIKELY A CAT! CATS CAN RETRACT THEIR CLAWS WHEN THEY WALK WHILE CANINES CANNOT.
- WHAT PATTERN ARE THE TRACKS IN? THINK ABOUT HOW THAT ANIMAL WALKS TO GIVE YOU SOME CLUES (FOR INSTANCE, A RABBIT WOULD HAVE LARGE SPACES BETWEEN TRACKS FROM HOPPING)
- WHAT SIZE ARE THE TRACKS? THINK ABOUT HOW BIG THE ANIMAL'S FOOT IS AND USE THAT TO GUESS WHO MIGHT HAVE LEFT IT! A BEAR PRINT WILL BE MUCH LARGER THAN A COYOTE'S.

DID YOU FIND SCAT? USE THIS GUIDE TO DETERMINE WHICH ANIMAL LEFT IT!

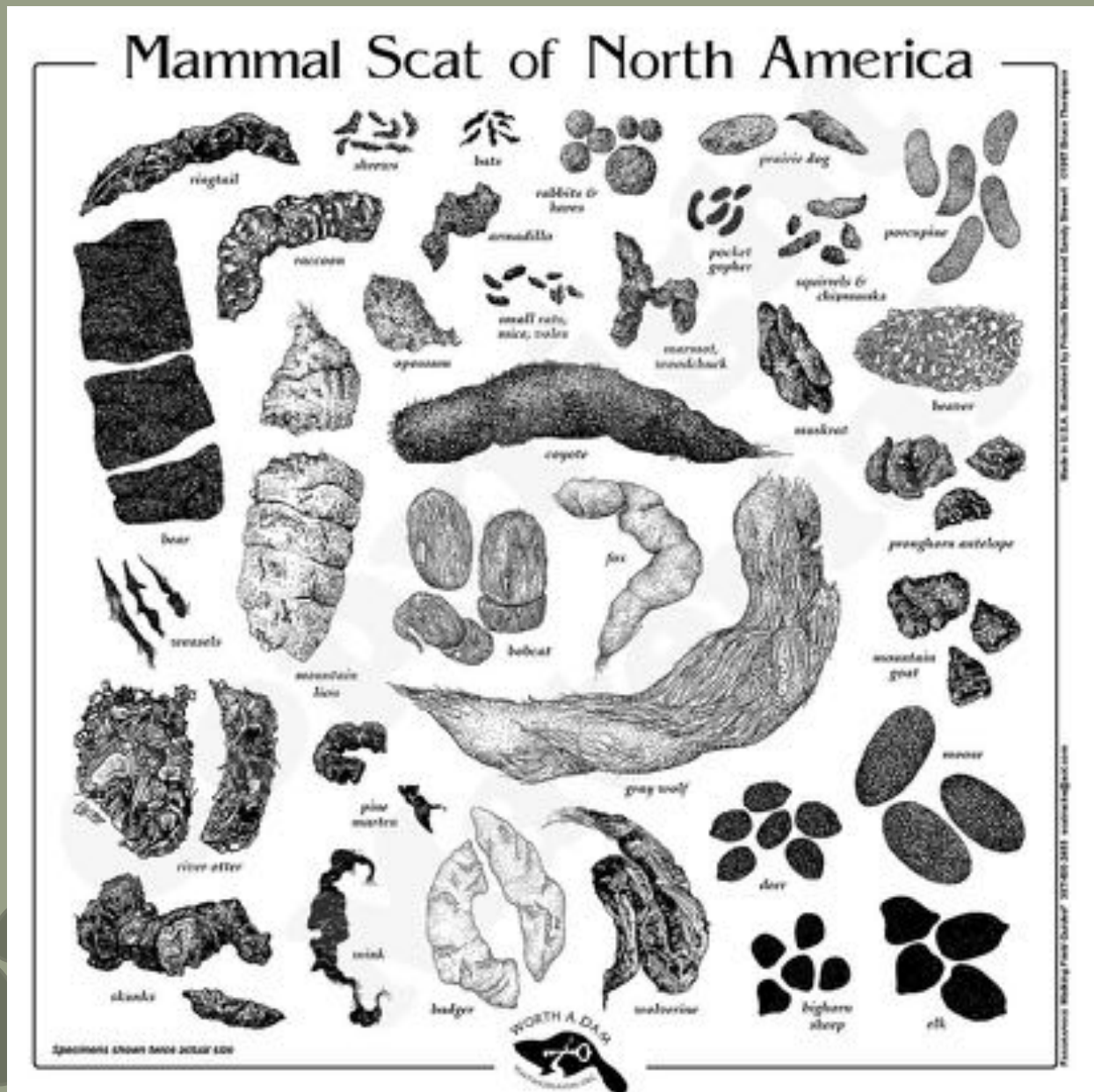


photo source: <http://www.martinezbeavers.org/wordpress/category/beaverproducts/page/3/>

WHILE IT MAY SEEM SILLY TO LOOK FOR ANIMAL POOP, IT CAN BE A GREAT WAY TO FIND OUT WHICH CRITTER HAS BEEN NEARBY! ANIMALS HAVE DIFFERENT DIETS AND DIGESTIVE SYSTEMS, WHICH ALLOWS US TO FIND UNIQUE MARKERS TO DETERMINE WHICH SPECIES IT CAME FROM.

SCAVENGER HUNT!



CAN YOU FIND THESE ITEMS?

- THREE TYPES OF ANIMAL TRACKS
- THREE TYPES OF ANIMAL HOMES
- AN EATEN LEAF
- BUG TRACKS ON A LOG
- A FEATHER OR ANIMAL HAIR
- EVIDENCE OF HUMANS!

Animal Tracks Matching Game!
Print and cut out the cards to practice your skills.

