



Track local wildlife

Learn the skills of a Stone Age hunter-gatherer.

What you need

- An outdoor area used by animals
- Suitable outdoor clothing
- A spotter's guide or an internet-enabled device

How does it work?

There are a few ways in which Stone Age people might have monitored the movements of local wildlife. One of the simplest that you can try is tracking footprints. In the winter, when the ground is wet and muddy or covered in snow, animal tracks can be spotted whether you're in a garden, park or woodland. Expert

trackers are able to tell how long it has been since an animal passed through the area, based on how the print looks. However, to get started you should just focus on identifying a few basic prints. To help you find out which animal tracks you have observed, take a look at a footprint ID guide. You can find one at tinyurl.com/SN-tracks



1 Search the area for animal tracks. Do they belong to a pet? Cats have soft triangular footpads and thumbprint-like toes. Dog prints have big pads and four pointy toes.



2 Footprints made by a bird have three toes. Water birds, such as ducks or geese, have webs that connect the toes together, whereas land-based birds don't.



3 Prints that look like two baked beans side by side have been created by hoofed animals, such as cows, deer and sheep.

YOUR SPACE



We'd love to hear how you got on with this month's activities. Email your photos to hello@science-nature.co.uk.

Featured readers will receive one of our Science+Nature HERO badges.

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Lucy loved making the scones from last month's issue.

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Joseph had a lot of fun watching the balloon inflate in his experiment.

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Timothy made a frog home for the amphibious wildlife in his garden.