

Mammal Tracks

Circle any that you find as you explore.



Deer



Raccoon



Beaver



Skunk



Squirrel







Coyote

MYSTERIOUS MAMMALS

Mammals can be elusive. There may be many different species of mammals living in your community, but most of them have behaviors that make them hard to spot in the daytime. Keep an eye out for clues that they leave behind.

COMMON MAMMAL CLUES

 Tracks	<p>Think about the size and the shape of the tracks. Can you see claw indents? Are there toes? How many toes do you see?</p>
 Bones	<p>What type of bone do you think it is? Is it big or small? If it's a skull, does it have sharp teeth like a carnivore for eating meat or flat teeth like a herbivore for eating plants?</p>
 Scat	<p>Scat, or animal poop, can be used to identify kinds of mammals in your area, and what they eat usually with the help of a guide. It isn't the most reliable, but it is the smelliest.</p>
 Markings	<p>Are there bite marks on the bark of trees and twigs nearby? Did an animal rub and scratch the bark? Any areas that were grass is pressed down for a bed or a den?</p>

WHAT CLUES CAN YOU FIND?

Take a walk around your community and look for evidence of mammals. Remember to record your observations in your nature journal or in the space below.



BONUS: Can you figure out what mammals could live nearby?

Citizen Science Challenge

Explore mammal tracking projects in iNaturalist. What clues do other scientists use to identify mammals?

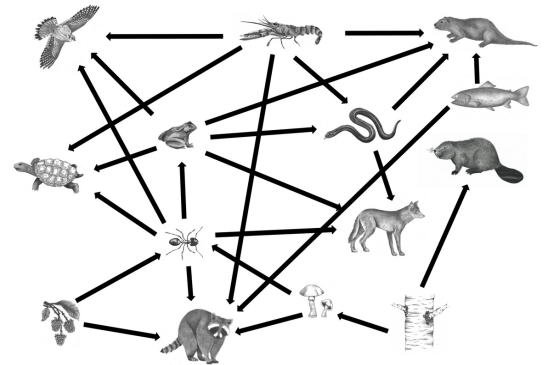
BONUS: How do the observations on these projects compare with your own?



FOOD WEBS

Throughout your Jr. Naturalist adventure, you have explored how ecosystems work by observing many living and non-living things and their relationships. Using your nature journal notes, combine what you have discovered over the past few pages to create a food web of the animals and plants of an ecosystem in your community.

ADIRONDACK FOODWEB



In a food web, arrows point from the prey to the predator. There can be multiple arrows for each organism in your web. As a bonus, write a short description on how you think different organisms interact with each other.

CREATE YOUR OWN FOODWEB