

# Track that Scat!



## A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

**Themes:** Animals, Tracking, Nature

**Book Brief:** As Finn and her dog Skeeter venture through the woods, they discover which animals are close by from the scat left behind. Finn's new boots take home the evidence!

**Author:**

Lisa Morlock

**Illustrator:**

Carrie Anne Bradshaw



## TIME TO READ!

### Before reading, infer:

Based on the cover picture and title, what can you guess about the main idea, setting, and characters in this book?

### After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ What other signs let you know that an animal has been around an area?
- ◆ Which animals would you most likely see in your backyard or neighborhood?
- ◆ Was Finn's mom surprised that Finn's boots were so dirty? Explain.

**While reading, make predictions:** This is a rhyming book. Try to predict the animal or what Finn will do next. How many did you guess correctly?



## RELATED ACTIVITIES

### TRACK IT DOWN

Materials: large piece of cardboard, flour, peanut butter

Place the cardboard in an area where you think an animal is likely to be. Dust the cardboard with flour and drop a small blob of peanut butter in the center. Leave out overnight. Check for tracks the next morning and try to identify the animal. Check to see if there is scat nearby! Look—don't touch.

### FOSSILIZED FEET

Materials: 1 cup coffee grounds, 1/2 cup cold coffee, 1 cup flour, 1/2 cup salt, plastic animals, waxed paper

Combine ingredients (except animals) in a bowl to form dough. Knead dough together and press into flat rounds on waxed paper. Press the feet of plastic

animals into dough to make tracks. Let the feet "fossilize" by drying overnight. How are the tracks you made similar to those you have seen outside?

### PANCAKE PAWS

Use your favorite pancake mix to make edible animal paw prints. Use a spoon to drop pancake batter onto a hot skillet in the shapes of your favorite animal's prints. Not sure what they look like? Log on to [www.hikingmichigan.com/PDFinfo/ForestStreamAnimalTracks.pdf](http://www.hikingmichigan.com/PDFinfo/ForestStreamAnimalTracks.pdf) for some easy ideas.

### TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit [www.whopooped.org](http://www.whopooped.org) to learn more about animals and their poop!

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

### OTHER BOOKS ABOUT TRACKING ANIMALS

*Get the Scoop on Animal Poop: From Lions to Tapeworms—251 Cool Facts about Scat, Frass, Dung and More!* Dawn Cusick (2013), *Tracks, Scats and Signs (Take Along Guides)*, Leslie Dendy (1996), *Who Pooped in the Park? Yellowstone National Park: Scat and Tracks for Kids*, Gary D. Robson (2004).



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