

Title: Walk This Way

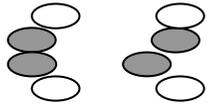
Objective: Practice different walking styles that animals have.

Time: 10-15 minutes

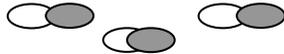
Materials Needed: Sixteen 6” sized ovals: 8 black and 8 white—Walk this Way prints (Blackline master on CD); rubber track models or pictures of different animal tracks; pictures of mammals that live in Minnesota.

Directions:

1. Using the background information, begin with introducing the different styles of walking animals have.
2. Place ovals in the pattern of a walking style and have students try to walk using arms and legs as front and back legs of an animal. The black ovals represent the front feet and the white ovals represent the back feet.



Hopper Tracks



Perfect Walker Tracks



Bounder Tracks



Waddler Tracks

3. Using the rubber track models or pictures of tracks along with background information, make predictions about which walking style that animal makes based on body characteristics.
4. Go outside and look for tracks and try to identify what animals live around the schoolyard.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why are there so many different ways in which animals can walk?
2. What animals will have an easier time walking in the deep snow? Why?

Activity

Suggested Season: Winter

Suggested Grade Level: 2-5

Indoors or Outdoors: Either

Theme: Animal Characteristics

Topic: Tracks

Standards Addressed:

Science: 0.4.1.1.1.; 1.4.1.1.1.; 3.1.1.2.4; 3.4.1.1.2.

Language Arts: K.I.B.; K.II.B.; K.III.A.; 1.III.A.; 1.III.B.1.; 2.III.A.; 3.III.A.2.

Math:

Social Studies:

Background Information:

Animals leave different trails depending on what kind of animal it is.

- Animals that are hoppers tend to have short legs, large thighs and round bodies. This includes rabbits, squirrels, mice and shrews. When they hop their two front feet appear next to or on top of each other behind the larger front feet.
- Perfect Walkers have long legs and sleek bodies. Their tracks and trails tend to be in a line. Their hind foot often lands where their front foot stepped. This includes deer, fox, coyotes and humans.
- Waddlers tend to have short legs and round bodies. This includes skunk, beaver, raccoon and opossum. Their feet land side by side rather than on top of each other.
- Bounders tend to have short legs and long, sleek bodies. Their back feet land where their front feet stepped as they are bounding. Weasels and river otters are in this group.

Some hints for identifying tracks are:

- Know the habitat. Know what animals live in the place you are looking and could possibly be out leaving tracks.
- Narrow the possibilities by looking first at the type of walker. Then decide, based on the size of the track, what animal was present.
- Look for other signs to help identify an animal track including scat, eat marks, food cache, or territory markings.

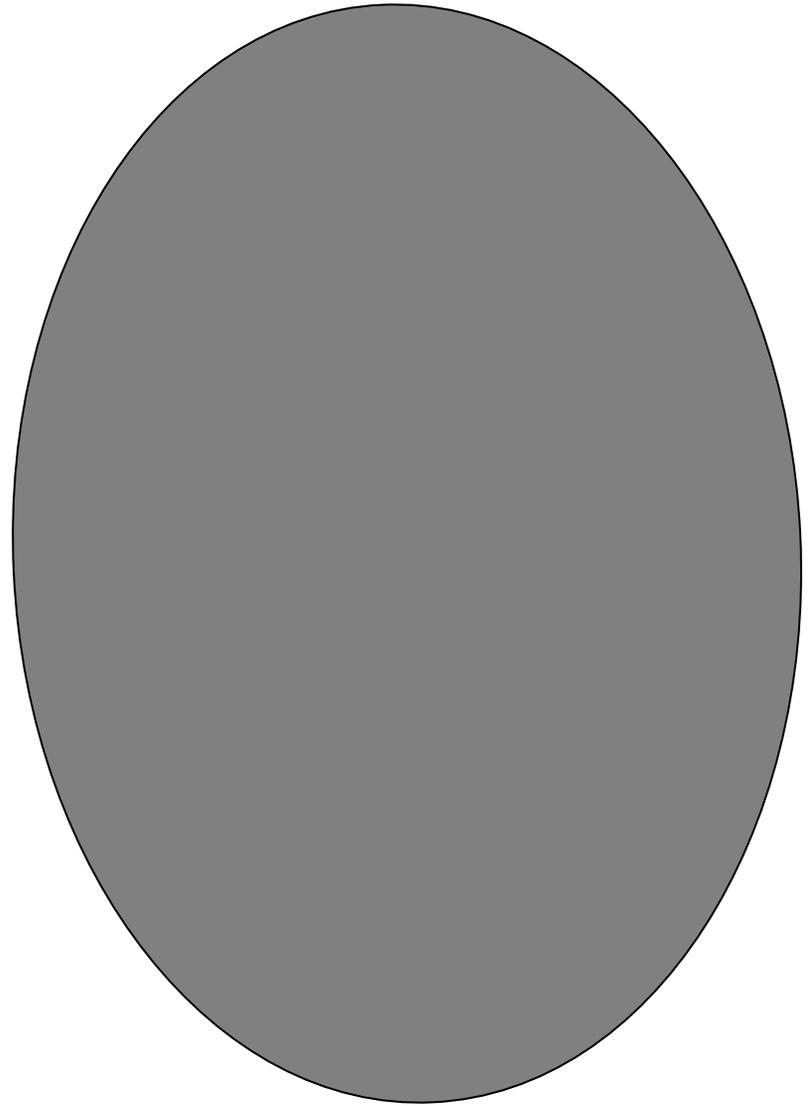
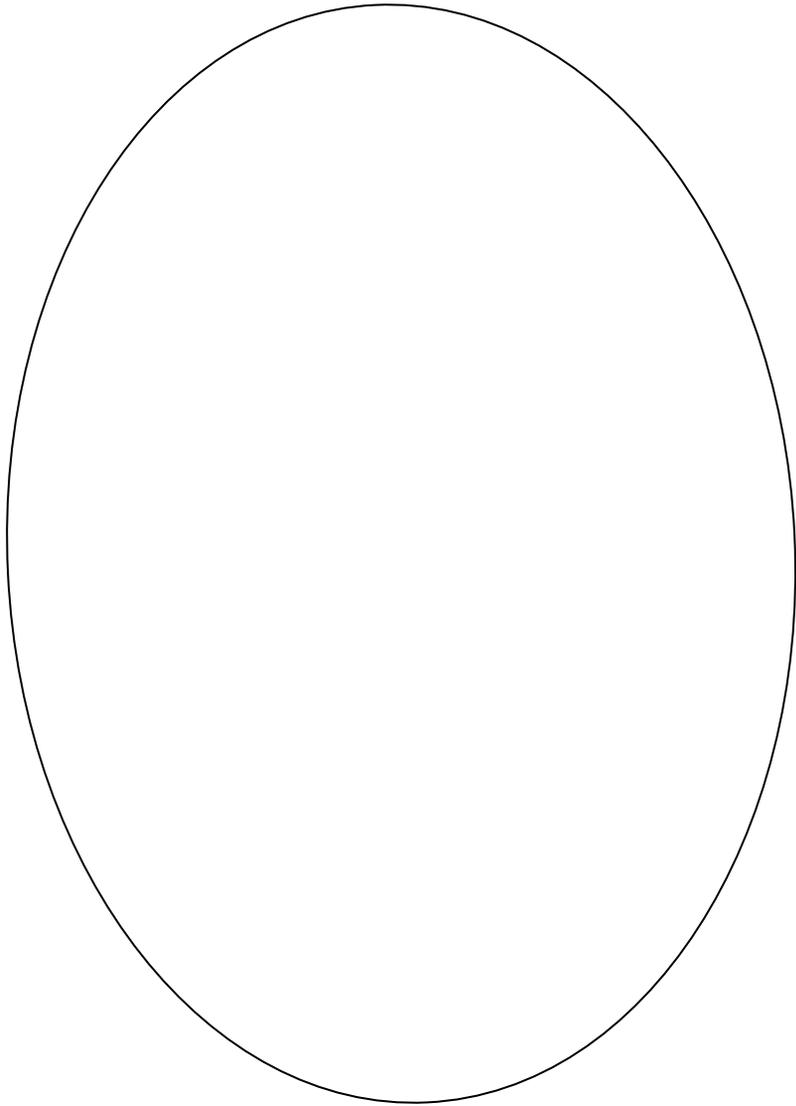
Additional Resources:

- *Tracks in the Wild* by Betsy Bowen
- *Animal Tracks of Minnesota and Wisconsin* by Ian Sheldon and Tamara Eder

Correlates with:

Greeting – Whose Track is That?

News and Announcements – Tracks are Everywhere



*Walk this Way Prints for Activity – Walk this Way
Created by Cara Rieckenberg, 2010, ISD #719*