

IMPRINT FOSSIL TRACKS

Adapted from Education.com "Dinosaur Tracks: How are Fossilized Imprints Formed?"

Although Shannon did not find any bear tracks, we certainly had fun discovering a lot of other animal tracks as we watched the video. Now it is your turn to try and create your own animal tracks.

With the help of an adult, you can make fossil dough and then use the dough to create imprint fossil tracks with items found around your house. Use the chart from the video as a guide to see what various animal tracks look like. Then use items such as shells, string, pebbles, utensils, coins, small toys, etc. to try to recreate these tracks as an imprint in the fossil dough. If you leave the dough out overnight it will harden, and you will be able to save your imprint fossil tracks to show your friends.

Materials:

- 1 cup used coffee grounds
- ½ cup cold coffee
- 1 cup flour
- ½ cup of salt
- Wax paper
- Mixing bowl
- Small items to make imprints
- Glass or circle cookie cutter



Photo from Education.com

Directions:

1. Stir together coffee grinds, coffee, flour, salt in mixing bowl until well mixed.
2. Knead the dough then flatten on wax paper.
3. Use the glass or cookie cutter to cut out circle shapes from the dough.
4. Use small items to push into dough to make an imprint that looks like the different animal tracks that are shown on the chart. Use your imagination to find items that can create the animal track you want to make.
5. Let dough harden overnight so you can save your animal track fossil!

Use the pictures of the animal tracks on this chart to help you create the animal track imprints on the fossil dough.

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TIPS FOR IDENTIFYING ANIMAL TRACKS

- Measure the height and width of the track.
- Count the number of toes.
- Look to see if there are claw marks at the end of the toes
(*Note: Canine (dog—like a fox) tracks have claw marks and feline (cat) tracks typically do not.)
- Measure how far apart one set of the animal's tracks are from the next set (their stride...like your foot step length).
- Follow the tracks to see where the animal was going and imagine what it was doing, but do not disturb the tracks or any animals.

