

For Creative Minds

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Who Has Eaten Here?

Match each animal to its food sign.

- A. Beavers cut down trees with their teeth and eat the bark.
- B. Red squirrels eat seeds in cones and the uneaten scales drop to form a pile (midden).
- C. Striped skunks dig little round holes in the ground looking for insects.



Answers: A2, B3, C1

Whose Track is This?

Match each animal with its track.



A white-tailed deer walks on two toenails.



Dogs have four toes.



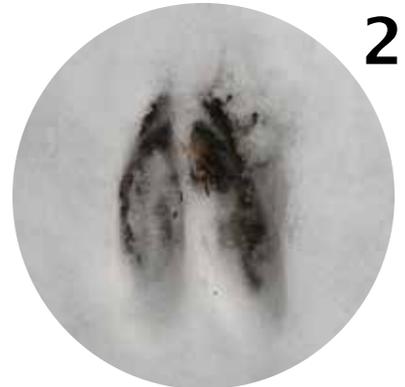
Fishers and other weasels have five toes.



Birds have three toes in front and one in back.



1



2



3



4

Answers: Deer-2; Dog-1; Fisher-4; ruffed grouse-3

Animal Signs To Look For

Animals leave all kinds of signs that they have been there, not just tracks. Look for some of these other animal signs around you.



spider web



feather



cocoon



holes in leaves
chewed by
insects



bird-wing marks



bird nest



animal's
home



skull



bald-faced
hornet nest



frog eggs



owl pellet



scat

Other Animal Signs



Fly: Inside the round “ball” found on some goldenrod stems (gall) is a young fly waiting until spring to come out.



Beaver: Beavers mark their territory by building piles of mud and leaves (scent mounds). They leave their scent (castoreum) on the scent mound which tells other beavers to stay away.



Honey bee: Honey bees usually build their wax combs in tree cavities, but sometimes they build them out in the open.



Pileated woodpecker: Pileated woodpeckers drill big holes in trees looking for carpenter ants to eat.