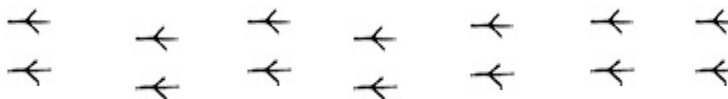
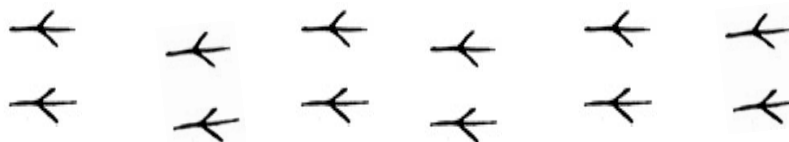
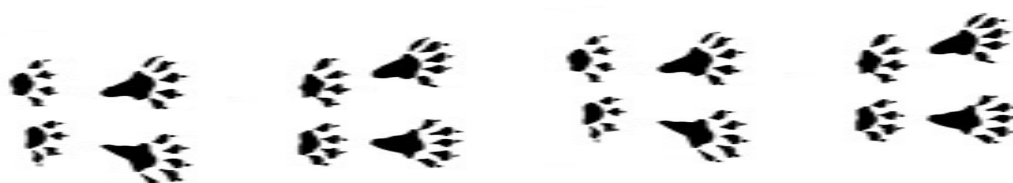
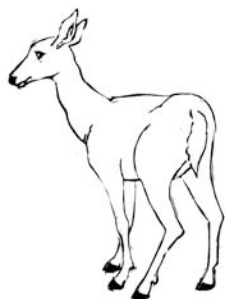


Tracks Tell a Story

Tracks discovered in the dirt, mud, or snow tell a story of what animals appeared there and how they might have interacted. Can you add animal tracks to a snowy scene to tell us what happened there?

Here are some common tracks found in the snowy woodlands for you to draw or cut and paste.

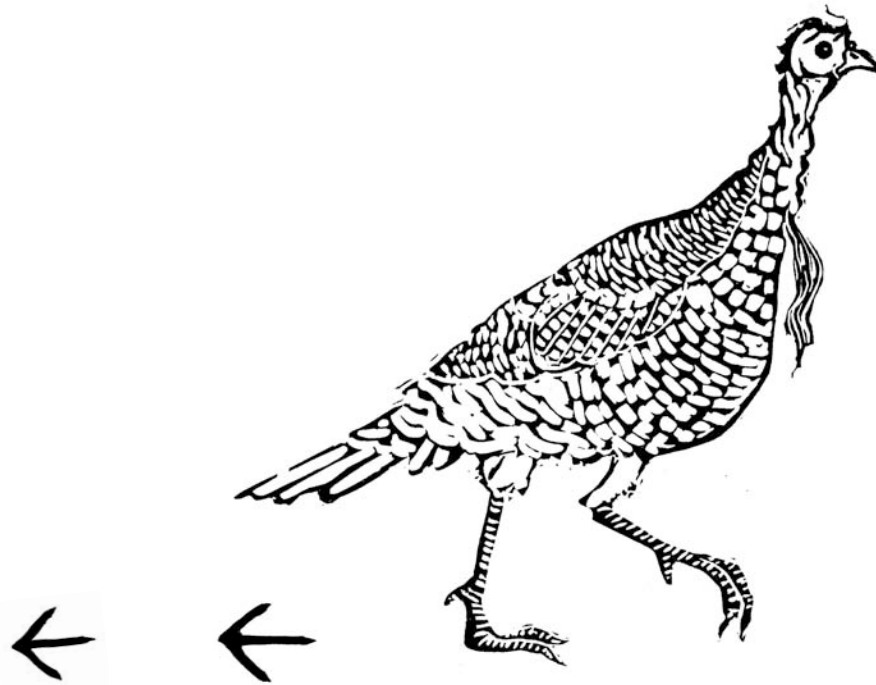
This activity guide is based on the picture book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications). Visit www.CathrynFalwell.com for other picture book nature activities and connections.



Tracks Tell a Story

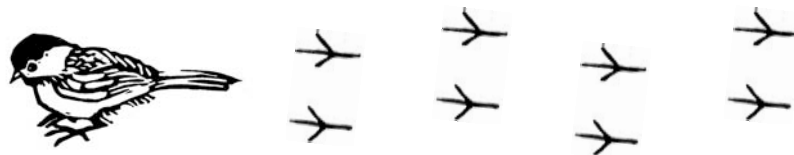
Can you add tracks that will tell a story about animals that might have been here and what they were doing?





Gobble, Gobble

**Nature Exploration Activities
for the Classroom, Library, Bookstore,
Nature Center, or Home**



This Activity Kit contains an animal tracks identification game and other nature observation activities for indoors or outdoors. The activities are designed to be used in conjunction with a reading of the picture book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications).

About the Kit

This Activity Kit contains an animal tracks identification game and other nature observation activities for indoors or outdoors. The activities are designed to be used in conjunction with a reading of the picture book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications). The kit includes:

- A simple "Gobble Animal Trail Game" that allows children to follow animal tracks while mimicking animal's unique movement and collecting nature fact cards.
- Ideas to build on the game using and growing a child's observation, research, and art skills.
- A "Tracks Tell a Story" activity that allows children to lay out animal tracks in a snowy landscape to tell what animals have visited and interacted there.

This Activity Kit was created by Cathryn Falwell and Kirsten Cappy of Curious City under the advisement of **Maine Audubon**. Special thanks to Maine Audubon Environmental Educator Cathy Stivers for ideas, edits, and for letting us meet Gisland Farm's tom.

About the Book



Gobble, Gobble

By Cathryn Falwell
Dawn Publications
Hardcover, \$16.95
Paperback, \$8.95

"...a welcome addition to nature shelves
all year round." —*Kirkus Reviews*

Arrow-shaped footprints lead a young backyard naturalist to a flock of funny-looking birds with big strong feet: Wild Turkeys! Once nearly extinct, these comical critters now gobble their way across North America. Follow Jenny through a year of enchantment as she shares her discovery of these wonderful birds. Gobble, gobble! Jenny wrote a journal, too, with lots of fascinating stuff about a distinctly American bird. Although it once numbered in the millions, wild turkeys nearly disappeared with over-hunting and habitat destruction, but are now making a comeback. The unique illustrations are block prints over collages. The collages are made from cut and torn paper plus all sorts of things from nature – bark, leaves, feathers, even wasp nests! Falwell also offers tips for children to make their own cut-paper pictures and how to keep a nature journal.

"Turkeys, turkeys everywhere! Here's an enjoyable down to earth (and up in the trees) chronicle, following the now ubiquitous wild critters through the seasons – just as we might see them – in simple verse, energetic art and factual afterword." —Prof. Margaret Bush, Simmons College, Library Science

About Cathryn Falwell

Living beside Frog Song Pond in Gorham, Maine, children's book illustrator/author always has her camera ready. Whether it is turtles making their newborn waddle from yard to pond, a fleet of wood ducklings taking their maiden voyage, frogs floating just below the surface, or a flock of turkeys passing by, Cathryn is there to capture the images first on film and then on the pages of her picture books. Cathryn Falwell has collaged the wildlife of the north woods with recycled and found papers and even paper from the abandoned nests of wasps. Bark and leaf prints add further texture. She has used this method for her award-winning nature picture books, **Turtle Splash! Countdown on the Pond**, **Scoot!**, and **Pond Babies**. The artwork for **Gobble, Gobble** has yet another layer. All of the color in the illustrations are collage and leaf prints, but the black line is done by block print.

Cathryn is also the creator of the picture books **Feast for Ten**, **David's Drawings**, **Butterflies for Kiri**, and **Word Wizard**, celebrated and awarded for their understated diversity and clever wordplay. When Cathryn is not observing life on the pond or in her woods, she is visiting schools and libraries to present interactive programs for children celebrating books, creativity, and imagination. For more information about Cathryn Falwell, please visit her at www.CathrynFalwell.com.

Gobble Animal Trail Game

In the picture book **Gobble, Gobble**, Jenny discovers arrow-shaped tracks in the spring mud. Jenny follows those tracks to a flock of turkeys. Readers will observe Jenny's turkeys throughout the season and spy the other animals in Jenny's backyards and woods.

You can teach your readers to recognize common animal tracks with this **Gobble Animal Trail Game**. Held inside or outside, the game asks questions about common woodland and backyard animals, offers up take-away fact cards about each animal, and asks readers to move down your designated trail like the featured animal.

Below is the outline of the basic game. It is simple to set up and simple to execute. Depending on your time, space, and length of study, you can extend these activities with ideas from the following pages.

A Month Before the Event:

- ___ Order a copy or copies of **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications).
- ___ If you are having a public event, announce the event in your newsletter, website, community calendars, and so on with copy like this:

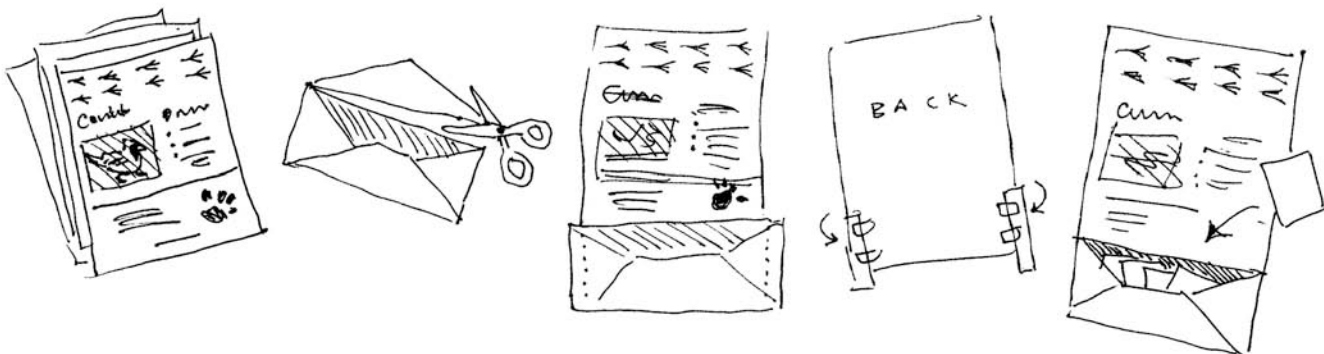
Gobble, Gobble

What are those strange arrow-shaped tracks in the mud? What creature has been here? Bring your 4-9 year-old child for a reading of the picture book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell. We will strut, flutter, and hop down an imaginary trail of animal tracks to discover who visits our woods and backyards. Your young naturalist will collect facts about these animal neighbors and get to take home a set of **Gobble, Gobble** cards.

- ___ Determine whether you will need a helper for this event and schedule him or her.
- ___ Determine your indoor or outdoor path for the game.

The Week of the Event:

- ___ Remind your patrons/customers through social media and other means about the event.
- ___ Print the six Posters included in this kit. If you are going to be outside, you may want to reinforce the posters with a cardboard backing and a means for hanging them up.
- ___ Cut the top flaps off of 6 business sized envelopes.
- ___ Glue envelopes to bottom of Posters where marked.
- ___ Fold the excess envelope sides to back of the poster and tape securely. You should now have 6 Posters with pockets.
- ___ Copy one set of the Game Cards A for each anticipated participant onto white cardstock.
- ___ Cut the Game Cards A along the lines and sort them into piles by animal.
- ___ Stuff the Game Cards A into their corresponding Poster pocket. Again, the number of cards in each envelope should match the number of game participants.
- ___ *Optional:* Print copies of Game Cards B so each participant can have a name card to match their final set of cards and blank cards for their own future animal research and exploration.
- ___ *Optional:* Lay out the name cards and blank cards for the participants to take away at the end of the game.



Gobble Animal Trail Game (cont.)

The Day of the Event:

___ Create game stations by putting up the six Posters with Game Cards A in their pockets around a room or along a trail.

During the Event:

___ Read your copy of **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications).

___ Transition your participants to the game by saying something like:

How did Jenny first discover she had turkeys in her yard? What did she find in the mud? Turkey tracks!

Even though you may not SEE the animals in your neighborhood or nearby woods, they do leave traces behind. Often you can tell who has been there by spotting and identifying tracks just like Jenny did.

We are going to play a game that helps you learn the tracks of woodland animals. Knowing your tracks will help you become a Young Naturalist like Jenny. Young Naturalists are kids that are curious and careful about the natural world around them.

To play the game, you will look for a poster with an animal on it. The poster will ask you some questions. You may know some of the answers or you may not--just take a guess. Once you have guessed, take a card from the pocket on the poster--it will have all the answers. You keep the card.

The poster will then show you an animal track and ask you to go find it. Find another poster with that animal track, answer THOSE questions, and take another card. Once you have SIX cards come back to me.

Those posters ALSO ask you to move like the animal you are seeking. I would love to see some turkey strutting and squirrel scampering!

___ Divide the participants so they are distributed at the various stations. It doesn't matter where they begin as each poster will direct them to the next one.

More Activities

Create a Nature Guide Book

The six collected cards from the game could become a nature guide using any of these ideas or ones of your brilliant devising.

Turn up the Color

___ Lay out a table of art supplies for children to color in the black and white illustrations on the cards. Lay out copies of **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications) and other nature books as reference.

On a Shoe String

___ Punch a single hole in the corner of each card before putting it in the poster pocket.

___ Invite children to string the cards together with yarn, ribbon, pipe cleaners, a large paper clip or a snap ring for an easy take along nature guide book.



More Activities (cont.)

Include More Animals

___ Use the blank card template from Game Cards B to encourage children to create their own additional animal cards.

___ If this is done in a classroom setting, perhaps children could work together towards a larger set of cards or nature guide book that could be shared at the end of the project.

Make Further Observations

In the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications), Jenny observes wild turkeys throughout the year. Can you encourage children to also pay attention to the natural world around them?

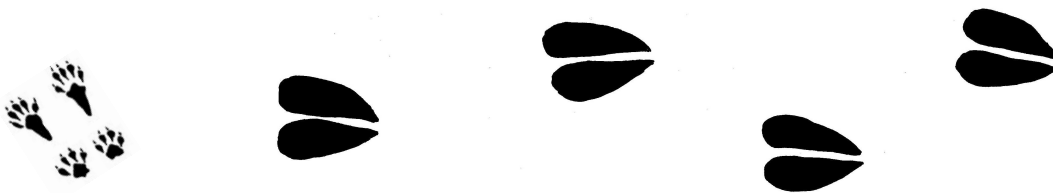
Nature Journals

___ As a follow-up to the game, create nature journals with children. Encourage them to take the journal with them outdoors to draw the trees, the shapes of the clouds, or to write down sightings of birds and other creatures throughout the year.

___ In a classroom setting, you can create a structure for recording, measuring, and depicting local flora and fauna throughout the year.

The Flour Trick

___ There is much animal movement that goes unseen by us busy humans. Show your children the flour trick. Sift flour onto the ground where you suspect there may be animal movement. Scatter seeds or other appropriate food for the animals in your community on and around the flour dusted area. Come back the next day to see if anyone has visited. Are there tracks? Can you identify them? What story do they tell?



Tracks Tell a Story

___ Tracks discovered in the dirt, mud, or snow tell a story of what animals appeared there and how they might have interacted. Share the Tell the Track Story activity sheets as a take-away from your event or as an exercise in the classroom or nature center. The Tell the Track Story has an empty snow scene for children to draw or cut and paste tracks from the provided page onto the landscape. Can they have a turkey and her poults cross paths with a deer? A coyote? Share seeds with a chickadee?

___ Educators could use this exercise as a "story starter" for a written piece about interactions in the natural world.

Make Your Own Tracks

Humans, of course, also leave tracks and this is a fun footprint project for the adventurous educator or parent.

___ Obtain large piece of paper. A roll of brown craft paper works well or lay out a trail of cut-open paper grocery bags.

___ Obtain water-based paint like tempera or poster paint.

___ Have children peel off shoes and socks. Paint the bottom of their bare feet (although this usually results in over-the-top tickles) or pour a thin skim of paint onto a tray and have the child step into it. For added pizzazz, change colors for each child and watch the colors mix on the paper.

___ Have the children walk across the paper. The prints will fade with each step (which is a handy way of removing the excess paint).

___ Create a protected area and have the children step into a basin of water and then onto newspapers, old towels, or the like to remove excess paint.

___ After all children have had a turn, see if they can find details that make their "tracks" unique.

More Activities (cont.)

Become a Nature Artist

The book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications) was created with the following elements:

- 1) **Collage** or the gluing down of cut or torn found and recycled papers, bits of painted papers, and natural objects like bark and abandoned wasp nest paper.

- 2) **Print making** or the application of paint onto an object and the transferring of the paint from the object to paper. If you look at the back cover of **Gobble, Gobble**, you can clearly see print making using leaves.

- 3) **Block Printing** or carving from a block of rubber, linoleum, or wood in a manner that takes away all the areas you do not want to print. (Think of a rubber stamp.) What remains is a raised area that can be painted with ink and then transferred to paper. What makes this process so interesting and challenging is that the print comes out in reverse of the carved block. Cathryn Falwell created all the black lines in **Gobble, Gobble** by using this method.

Collage

___ If you do collage with children, think about starting a scrap box. A scrap box can contain anything that can be glued down like old wrapping paper, magazines, catalogs, scrap of fabric, tissue paper, used envelopes, calendars, colorful paper napkins, and so on. Once you start a scrap box, you will see your junk mail as a rainbow of colors rather than trash.

___ Other collage materials are easy to obtain. Layout scissors, glue or glue sticks, and let your young artists go wild!

___ Pull picture books from your library that have been illustrated with collage and have children look at the layers of paper and found materials. You might look at the picture book collage illustration of Cathryn Falwell, Steve Jenkins, Eric Carle, Lois Ehlert, Ezra Jack Keats, Bryan Collier, and others.

Print Making

___ Using tempera paint or poster paint, have your children experiment with printmaking. Apply paint to an object with a brush or dip it into a small pool of paint in a dish and then transfer the object to paper.

___ Some good print making objects are:

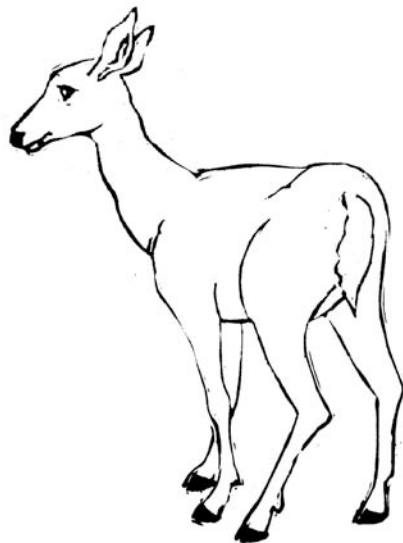
- Natural Objects: leaves, bark, flat stones, shells
- Fruits & Vegetables: carrot, broccoli, onion, apple, celery, pepper, potato, or any other piece of produce that is not juicy when cut. Some of these may need to be cut to produce a flat surface.
- Found Objects: bottle caps, jar lids, bits of hardware, sponges, coins, bubble wraps, or interesting items from the recycling bin

Other Resources for Book-Based Creativity, Play, and Education

Cathryn Falwell offers many free downloadable activities based on her picture books on her website and related blogs at www.CathrynFalwell.com.

Cathryn is a frequent collaborator with Curious City who creates kinetic literacy event and activity kits that are available free to educators, librarians, and parents at www.CuriousCity.net.

Dawn Publications whose mission is "connecting children with nature" offers many free activities on the Teachers/Librarians section of their website at www.DawnPublications.com.



White-Tailed Deer



Do you know...

- What they eat?
- How high they can leap?
- What their babies are called?

Take a guess and then take a deer card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

Now, flap your gray wings while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.



Chickadees



Do you know...

- What they eat?
- What they like to hide?
- How big they are ?

Take a guess and then take a chickadee card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

Now, **scamper** along and swish your bushy tail while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.



Squirrels

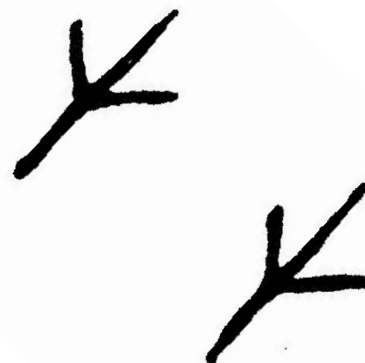


Do you know...

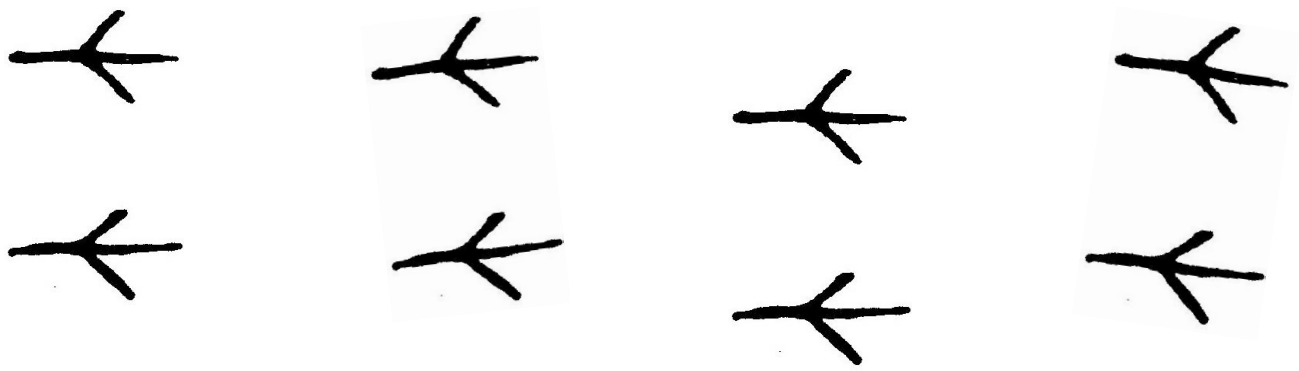
- What they eat?
- Where they build their nests?
- How big they are ?

Take a guess and then take a squirrel card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

Now, **flash** your red feathers and fly while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.



Cardinals



Do you know...

- What they eat?
- Why the female is not bright red?
- Which bird is the great singer--the male or the female?

Take a guess and then take a cardinal card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

Now, **wag** your tail while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.



Dogs and their Cousins



Do you know...

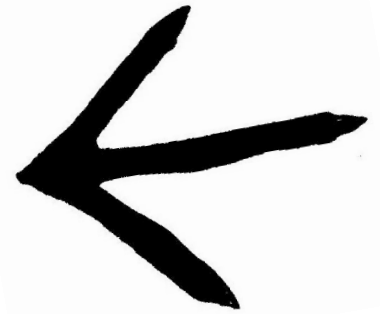
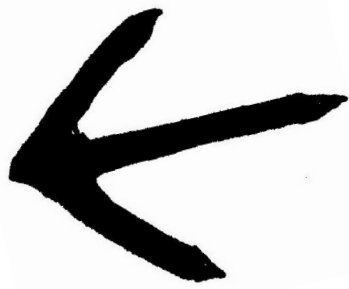
- How dog tracks are often different from their cousins the coyote or the wolf?
- Why your dogs shouldn't chase turkeys?

Take a guess and then take a dog card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

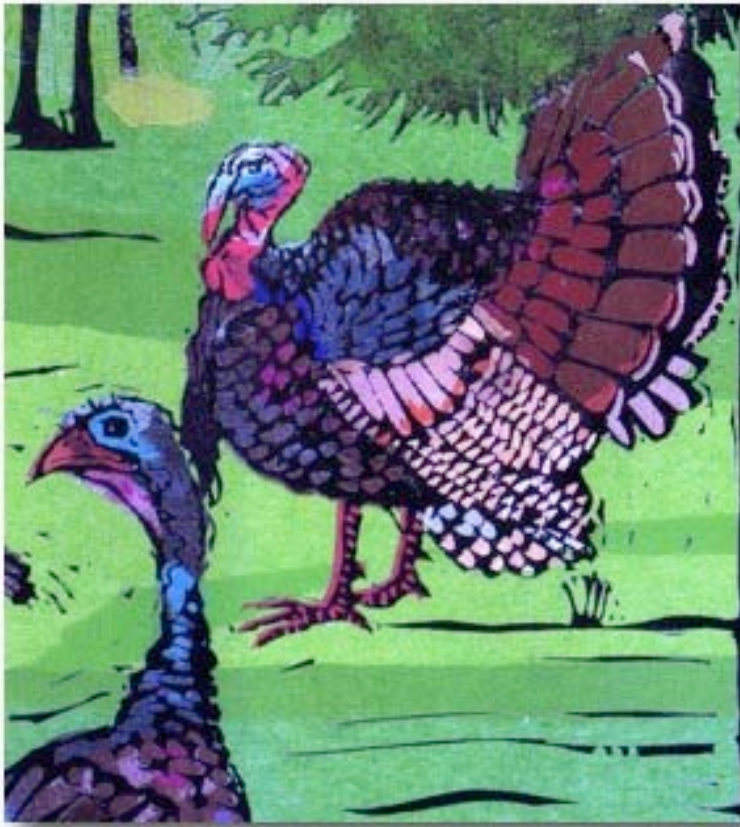
Now, **bob your neck** while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.



Wild Turkeys

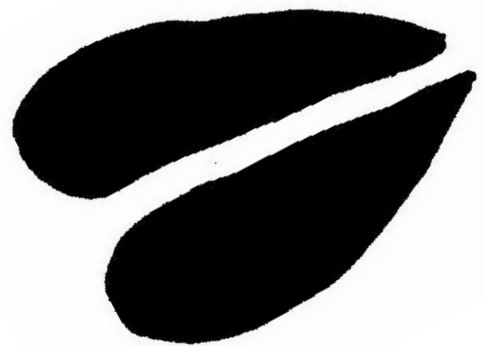


Do you know...

- What they eat?
- Where they live?
- What their babies are called?

Take a guess and then take a turkey card from the pocket below. It is yours to keep, Young Naturalist!

Now, **leap** with your white tail held high while you look for these tracks...



Attach envelope for cards here.

Cardinals

INTERESTING FACTS:

- The female cardinal's coloring blends with her surroundings. That way, she won't be easily spotted by predators while she's on her nest. The male, however, is bright red.
- Both males and females are great singers.
- They have strong bills for cracking seeds, and also eat fruit and insects.

SIZE:

- 8-9 inches long
- Weighs about 1 1/2 ounces

TRACK:



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)

Black-capped Chickadees

INTERESTING FACTS:

- These small curious birds eat mostly insects, but love to visit bird feeders for sunflower seeds.
- They hide food in many different places for later, and can remember where it is.
- The chickadee's call can communicate information to other birds in the flock.

SIZE:

- About 5 inches long
- Weighs about 1/3 ounce

TRACK:



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)

Squirrels

INTERESTING FACTS:

- There are over 100 species of squirrels in the world.
- Gray squirrels eat acorns, nuts, seeds, bark and mushrooms.
- Red squirrels feed mostly on seeds from pine cones.
- Both make nests in trees.

SIZE:

- Length, including tails:
- Gray: about 10-12 inches
- Red: about 7-9 inches

TRACK:



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)



White-Tailed Deer

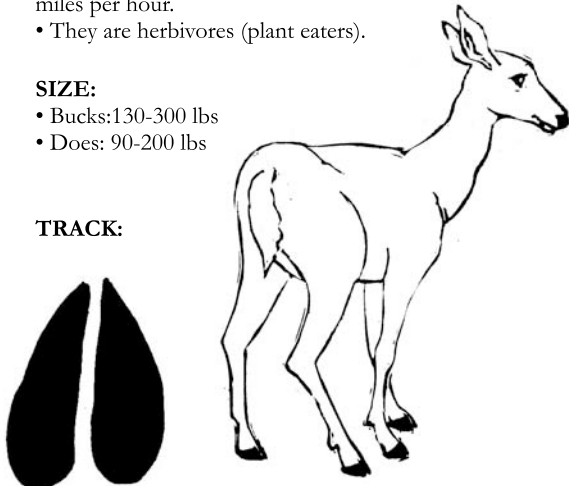
INTERESTING FACTS:

- Females are called does, and males are called bucks.
- The babies are fawns.
- Bucks lose their antlers each year and grow new ones.
- Deer can leap as high as 10 feet, and can run up to 30 miles per hour.
- They are herbivores (plant eaters).

SIZE:

- Bucks: 130-300 lbs
- Does: 90-200 lbs

TRACK:



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)

Dogs & Their Cousins

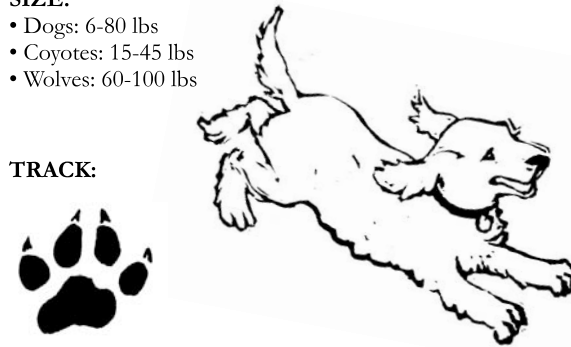
INTERESTING FACTS:

- Domestic dogs are close cousins to coyotes and wolves. Their tracks are so similar that sometimes you can only tell them apart by the pattern. A dog will walk here and there sniffing while a coyote or wolf will run a much straighter line.
- Dogs may try to chase wild turkeys, but you should always try to stop them. A female turkey might attack a dog if she thinks the dog is after her poults!

SIZE:

- Dogs: 6-80 lbs
- Coyotes: 15-45 lbs
- Wolves: 60-100 lbs

TRACK:



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)

Wild Turkeys

INTERESTING FACTS:

- Adult males are called toms and females are hens.
- Hens lay 8-14 eggs in ground nest.
- Babies are called poults: the females are jennys, and males are jakes.
- Wild turkeys eat acorns, insects, berries and corn.
- They prefer woods and fields, but are also found in towns and even cities.

SIZE:

- Toms: 11-24 lbs
- Hens: 7-12 lbs



From the book **Gobble, Gobble** by Cathryn Falwell (Dawn Publications)

NAME:

INTERESTING FACTS:

SIZE:

TRACK:

NAME:

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SIZE:

TRACK:

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TRACK:

YOUR NAME:



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