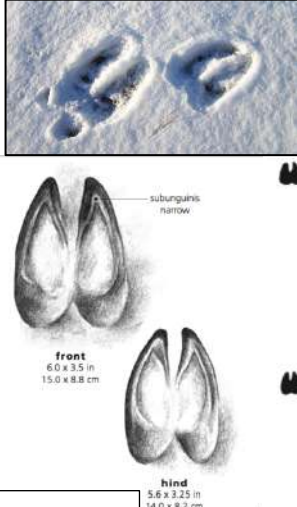
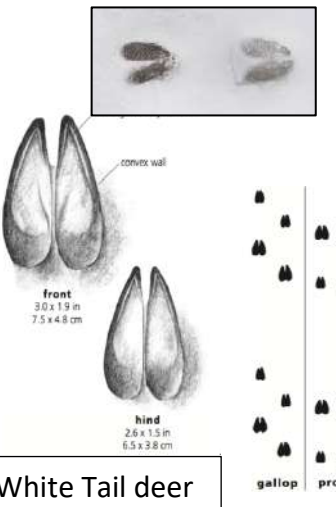
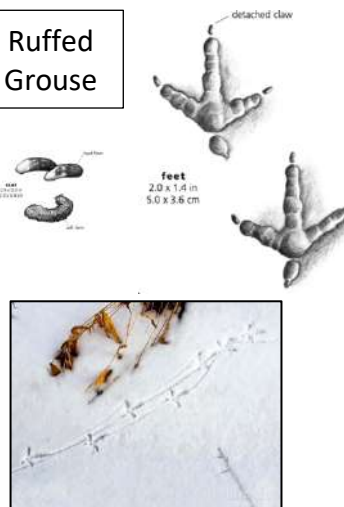
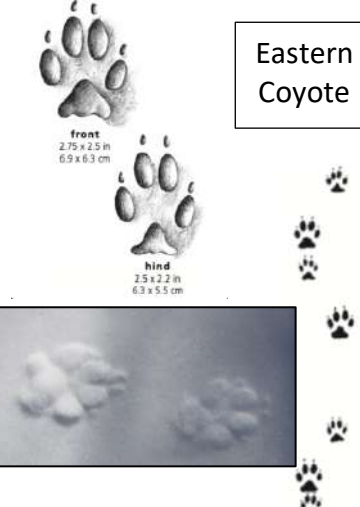
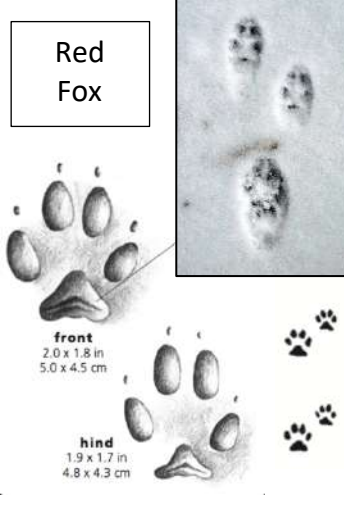

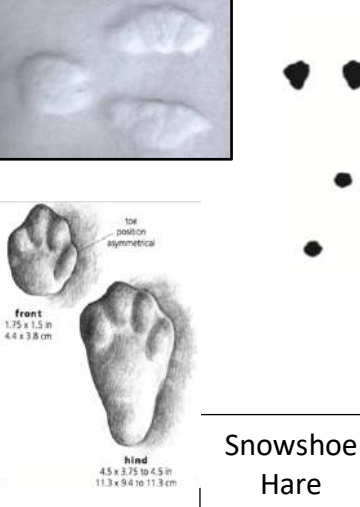
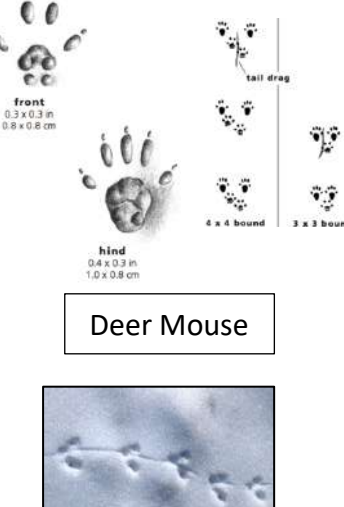
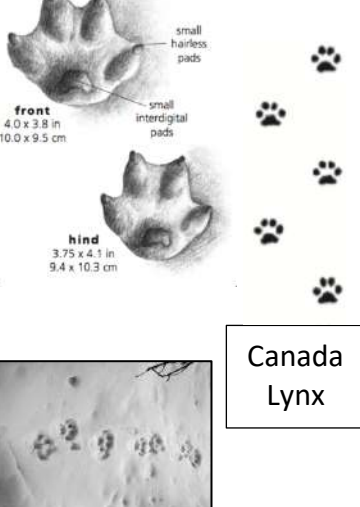


Tracks Identification Scavenger Hunt --- Francis Malcolm Science Center

 <p>subunguis narrow</p> <p>front 6.0 x 3.5 in 15.0 x 8.8 cm</p> <p>hind 5.6 x 2.25 in 14.0 x 5.2 cm</p> <p>Moose</p>	 <p>convex wall</p> <p>front 3.0 x 1.9 in 7.5 x 4.8 cm</p> <p>hind 2.6 x 1.5 in 6.5 x 3.8 cm</p> <p>gallop prong</p> <p>White Tail deer</p>	<p>Ruffed Grouse</p> <p>detached claw</p> <p>feet 2.0 x 1.4 in 5.0 x 3.6 cm</p> 
 <p>front 2.75 x 2.5 in 6.9 x 6.3 cm</p> <p>hind 2.5 x 2.2 in 6.3 x 5.5 cm</p> <p>Eastern Coyote</p>	 <p>front 2.0 x 1.8 in 5.0 x 4.5 cm</p> <p>hind 1.9 x 1.7 in 4.8 x 4.3 cm</p> <p>Red Fox</p>	 <p>claws</p> <p>pads distinct</p> <p>front 1.0 x 1.0 in 2.5 x 2.5 cm</p> <p>hind 0.9 x 1.0 in</p> <p>heel not included in track measurement</p> <p>hind prints on front</p> <p>full bound slow bound</p> <p>Red Squirrel</p>
 <p>toe position asymmetrical</p> <p>front 1.75 x 1.5 in 4.4 x 3.8 cm</p> <p>hind 4.5 x 3.75 to 4.5 in 11.3 x 9.4 to 11.3 cm</p> <p>Snowshoe Hare</p>	 <p>front 0.3 x 0.3 in 0.8 x 0.8 cm</p> <p>hind 0.4 x 0.3 in 1.0 x 0.8 cm</p> <p>tail drag</p> <p>4 x 4 bound 3 x 3 bound</p> <p>Deer Mouse</p>	 <p>small hairless pads</p> <p>small interdigital pads</p> <p>front 4.0 x 3.8 in 10.0 x 9.5 cm</p> <p>hind 3.75 x 4.1 in 9.4 x 10.3 cm</p> <p>Canada Lynx</p>

Tracks Identification Scavenger Hunt --- Francis Malcolm Science Center

The wetland of the Francis Malcolm Science Center is an exceptional place to look at animal tracks. The best time to go to see good quality tracks would be just after a snow storm of an inch or two. The ability to interpret animal tracks and traces takes practice but adds to the fun of the outing. The tracks tell a story about where the animal travelled from and where it's now going. It gives us clues about where the animal makes it home.

Most common tracks found include: Red Squirrel, Red Fox, Eastern Coyote and Snowshoe Hare. Interesting but not as common include: Weasel, Martin, Fisher and Deer Mouse. Rare but can be found include: Moose, Whitetail Deer, Lynx and Ruffed Grouse.

Hints to identify a track: look for claw marks, count the digits, look at the shape and size of the track.

- Canines, felines, and members of the deer family generally walk or trot. The trail looks like an almost perfectly straight line of prints, because the animal places its hind foot into the print just made by the front foot. The tracks should look like this:



- Members of the weasel family generally bound, a gait in which they place both forefeet together on the ground, then swing their hind feet into nearly the same prints. The trail made by a weasel would look like this:



- The gallop is typical of most rabbits, hares, squirrels, and mice. These animals touch down with their front feet, and then follow through with their hind legs landing in front of the forefeet. The action looks like that of "leapfrog," and the trail would look like this:



- Wide-bodied, heavy animals such as bear, raccoon, skunk, muskrat, beaver, opossum, and porcupine tend to lumber or waddle by placing each foot in its own distinctive spot. Their tracks would look like this:



<p>Martin</p> <p>front 2.5 x 2.8 in hind 2.8 x 3.1 in</p> <p>qallag 5 x 5 qallag 6 x 6</p> <p>All four feet together</p>	<p>Fisher</p> <p>proximal pad</p> <p>front 2.5 x 2.8 in hind 2.6 x 2.4 in</p> <p>3 x 3 lope 2 x 2 gallop 1 x 2 x 1 lope</p>	<p>Weasel</p> <p>front 0.5 x 0.6 in hind 0.6 x 0.7 in</p> <p>heel not included in track measurement</p> <p>gallop 2 x 2 lope</p>
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Let us know how you did and if you find something you are not sure what may have made the track. Take a photo and send it along to be identified. Let us know if we can use your photos.

Please use the Facebook Message for Francis Malcolm Science Center for the quickest answer.