

Footprints in the Snow

Little Brave and his father, Crooked Arrow, were going hunting to look for deer. Snow covered the ground, so Little Brave and his father had to find the deer in a particular way.

Can you guess how? How would you find a deer deep in the woods with snow covering the ground?

**That's right they had to look for foot prints (tracks) in the snow.*

Now Little Brave and Crooked Arrow, walked through the forest looking down at the ground covered in snow. They saw several types of footprints. This was going to be hard to find the deer tracks amongst all the other animal tracks.

Can you help Little Brave find the footprints for the deer? (put the Rabbit prints on the Board)

Little Brave stopped and looked down at the first set of tracks. "I think I found them!", he told Crooked Arrow. Crooked Arrow looked down at the tracks Little Brave was pointing to. "That is a good guess, Little Brave, but those tracks belong to an animal that is much smaller. They like to build burrows underground to live in and they have long ears. Some can hop great distances."

Do you know what animal made these prints? Yes, these are the foot prints of a Rabbit (place picture of Rabbit beside prints)

(put the Squirrel prints on the Board)

Little Bear and Crooked Arrow walked deeper into the forest. Little Brave spotted another set of tracks. "Father", he shouted, "here are more animal tracks! These are small just like the others, but do you think they could belong to a very small deer?"

"Hmm", said Crooked Arrow. "Yes, those do belong to a small animal but even a small deer would leave much bigger tracks behind. No, these tracks belong to an animal even smaller than the rabbit. This animal likes to climb trees. They can even jump from tree to tree. These animals love to eat nuts and they bury their food to hide it from other animals."

Do you know what animal made these prints? Yes, these are the foot prints of a Squirrel (place picture of the squirrel beside prints)

(put the Fox prints on the Board)

Little Brave and Crooked Arrow continued walking through the forest, and they soon came to a meadow. Little Brave looked down at the snow covered ground and gasped, "Look Father! I found them! These prints are bigger than both the Squirrel and the Rabbits tracks. These must be the tracks of the deer!"

"Little Brave, you are right these tracks are much bigger than the other tracks, but these tracks are made from an animal that has paws. The deer have hooves on their feet. Paws are much softer than hooves and have claws. These tracks belong to an animal that is much like a dog. They are great hunters like us and are omnivores. These animals are sometimes grey or white but the most common are red."

Do you know what animal made these prints? Yes these are the foot prints of a Fox (place picture of the Fox beside prints)

(put the Deer prints on the Board)

As little Brave and Crooked Arrow crossed the meadow, another set of tracks were made in the snow. Little Brave dropped down to look at the tracks. "Look, father, these tracks are big enough to be from a deer and they are shaped more like the foot print a hard hoof would make in the snow. These must be the tracks of a deer!"

"Hmm, I see; yes, you are correct. These prints are made from hooves and are just the right size for a deer. Look at this tree, Little Brave". Crooked Arrow points to a tree on the edge of the meadow. "These markings are made from antlers that have been rubbed against the bark. And the tracks leap around like that of an animal who can jump really well."

Do you know what animal made these prints? Yes, we found them these are the prints of a deer (place picture of the Deer beside prints)

"Great job, Little Brave. You have found the prints of the deer", said Crooked Arrow. "You are a great hunter."