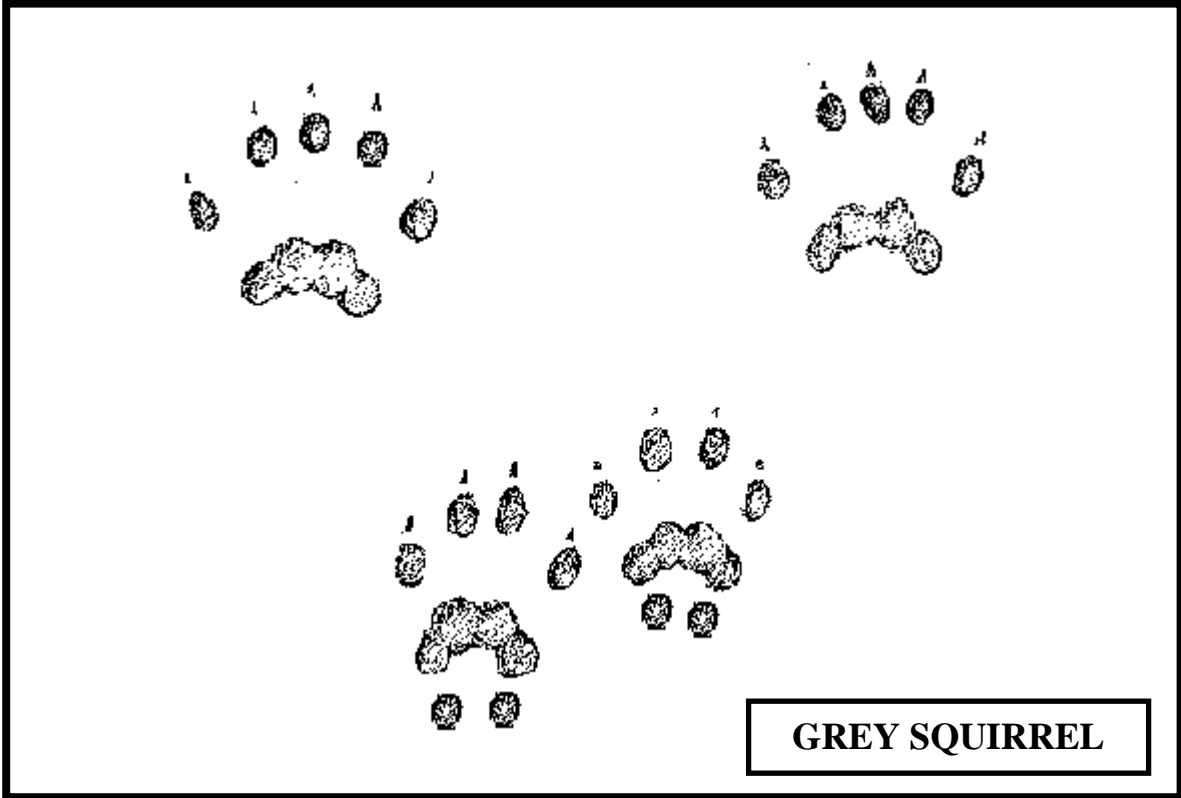


# Trackers

Driftwood Education Center



**Class Description:**

*Have you ever wondered what type of animals live around your home? How can you find out? In "Trackers," students will investigate Driftwood's backyard to learn how to identify animals through close observation of the signs they leave in the forest. Through several activities, students will hone their observation skills and perhaps come face to face with some of our local species.*

**Most appropriate for grades 3-6**  
**Not appropriate for High School Students**

Driftwood Education Center  
Po Box 20712 St. Simons Island, GA 31522  
Phone: 912.638.3849 Fax: 912.634.0642  
[www.driftwoodee.org](http://www.driftwoodee.org)

## Trackers

### Table of contents and outline:

#### I. Introduction, overview, and assessment (15 min)

1. Exploration of animal signs in classroom.
2. Assess what they know about animal signs.
3. Give an overview of what is going to happen today, what an animal sign is. What does observation mean?

#### II. Observation: (Outside: 15 minutes)

##### Concept 1 - Outcome 1

1. Pencil activity: Testing students observation skills.

#### III. Tracks and Races: (20 min)

##### Concept 3 - Outcome 3

1. Track your instructor in the forest

#### IV. To the forest: We're pro's now! (30 min)

##### Concept 1-2 Outcomes 1-2

1. Finding signs by observing off the trail..

#### V. Conclusion: SO WHAT? NOW WHAT? (10 min)

##### Concept 4

1. List what we found: Diversity.
2. What animals do we have at Driftwood? Why?

### Concepts:

Focal points of this class are:

1. Close observation can teach us about the world around us.
2. Locating animal signs can lead investigators to animal identification
3. By understanding a track and walking pattern, we can identify the animal that left it.
4. More diversity in an ecosystem yields a healthy environment.

### Outcomes:

Upon completion of this class, students will be able to:

1. Enhance their observation skills through simple activities.
2. Identify signs of animals in the forest and understand and identify the species that left them
3. Learn and identify the four types of walking patterns: diagonal, pacer, bouncer, galloper.

### Georgia Performance Standards met

#### 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**1. S5CS3.** Students will use tools and instruments for observing, measuring, and manipulating objects in scientific activities.

**2. S5CS8.** Students will understand important features of the process of scientific inquiry.

**3. S4L2.** Students will identify factors that affect the survival or extinction of organisms such as adaptation, variation of behaviors (hibernation) and external features (camouflage and protection).

#### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade:

**1. S6CS9. a:** Scientific investigations are conducted for different reasons. They usually involve collecting evidence, reasoning, devising hypotheses, and formulating explanations.

#### 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade:

**1. a.** Investigations are conducted for different reasons. . . Scientific investigations usually involve collecting evidence, reasoning, devising hypotheses, and formulating explanations to make sense of collected evidence.