

Making plaster casts of tracks:

Included in box:

18 track molds- Mammals you are likely to see in this area

18 Stir sticks

9 Yogurt cups

Additional Materials You will need:

Plaster of Paris

Water

Paper plates

paper cups

Directions:

Mix 3 parts powder to 1 part water, (1cup plaster, 1/3cup water) Add plaster **to** water in thirds, stir between additions

Stir to thick smooth yogurt-like consistency (you may not use the whole cup of powder)

Stir quickly so it doesn't set up in container

Scoop/pour plaster into center of mold in thirds, shake mold gently to settle and fill all the small areas between pours

Fill to the top of mold so the animal and print type will be on your cast

Set aside to dry- 30min-1hr, times vary due to size of mold and consistency of plaster, it will warm as it dries **do not remove** while still warm or wet

Flip mold and **gently** push track out of the rubber

Clean up note:

(Yogurt containers and stir sticks can be reused)

Scrape excess off stir sticks then allow extra plaster to dry in containers

When dry, extra plaster can be tapped out into trash

Suggestions for larger groups:

Do a test run beforehand to get the mix right and get an idea of drying time

Do another for your group to demo the process

Set out **paper** cups with 1 cup **power**

Set out **yogurt cups** with 1/3 cup **water**

have a wash-up station ready

plastic on floor if needed

Take it on the road:

This method can be used “in the field” bring a baggie of plaster and some water on your next hike or trip to the beach, you can mix right in the bag, add water slowly, have an extra baggie of plaster to thicken your mix if needed. It might be hard to wait, your track may pick up particles from the soil, you could try using the plastic to line the track but it will be hard to tell if you are getting it in

MICHIGAN FOREST-FIELDS

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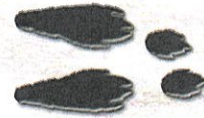
ANIMAL TRACKS



HIKING MICHIGAN

RABBIT

Cotton-Tail Rabbit



SQUIRREL

Fox Squirrel



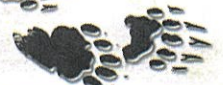
OPOSSUM

Possum



SKUNK

Striped Skunk



DEER MOUSE

Deer Mouse



RACCOON

Raccoon



WOODCHUCK

Ground Hog



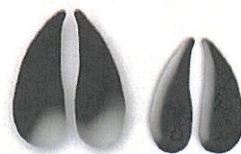
COYOTE

Coyote



DEER

White-Tailed



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MUSKRAT

Common Muskrat



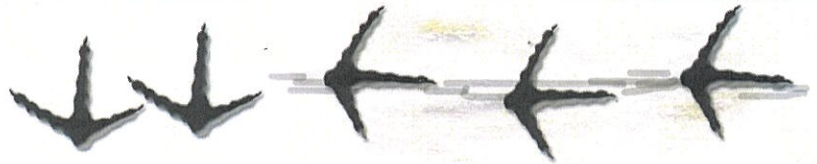
WEASEL

Least Weasel



TURKEY

Turkey



FOX

Red Fox



MINK

Mink



DOG

Canine



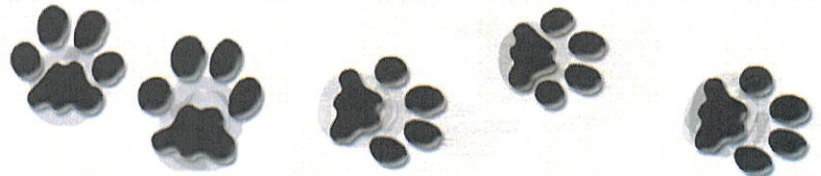
BEAVER

American Beaver



BOBCAT

Bobcat



CROW

Carrion Crow

