



## AT HOME CLASSROOM RESOURCES

# EARLY YEARS

## Animal Tracks and Stories

### KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 4

#### LESSON DESCRIPTION

This activity uses storytelling to spark inquiry, and engages students with a neighbourhood walk allowing them to consider the various wildlife living around their school and community.

#### BOOKS ABOUT ANIMALS AND SNOW

*Snowflake Bentley* by Jacqueline Briggs Martin

*Over and Under the Snow* by Kate Messner

*Animals in Winter* by Henrietta Bancroft

*Turtle Spring* by Deborah Turney Zagwyn

#### SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: K-1-02, 1-1-07, 1-1-10, 1-1-11, 1-1-14, 1-4-16, 2-1-09, 2-1-16, 3-1-13, 4-1-01, 4-1-02, 4-1-03, 4-1-04, 4-1-07

English Language Arts: 1.1.1, 2.1.1, 3.1.2, 3.1.3

#### OTHER RESOURCES

[FortWhyte Alive's Animal Tracks Key](#)

### LESSON

Winter is a time for storytelling - Indigenous cultures recognize this and there are stories that elders and knowledge keepers will tell only in wintertime. Read from books about humans in winter, and share some stories about animals under the snow.

Depending on the grade level, students can be encouraged to create their own winter story, poem or list of words about a winter activity they enjoy, or an animal's way of surviving winter.

#### SCHOOLYARD ANIMAL WALK

##### Materials

- FortWhyte Animal Tracks Key
- Camera (optional)

##### Activity

- Take your students for a walk around the neighbourhood or schoolyard with the goal of discovering signs of animals.
- Keep a list as you walk or take photos of the things you have seen - birds, holes or nests in trees, and tracks on the ground.
- The animal tracks key can help you discover who is in your neighbourhood. Make some observations about tracks - where do they start and where do they end? What size feet, and what pattern of walking did this animal have? Where would this animal be hiding/sheltering at night?

Once back inside, discuss your findings. Create more opportunities to research where those animals might be.