Wildlife Survey Introduction

Tracks and Scat Exploration

One way to study animals is to identify where animals live and spend time.

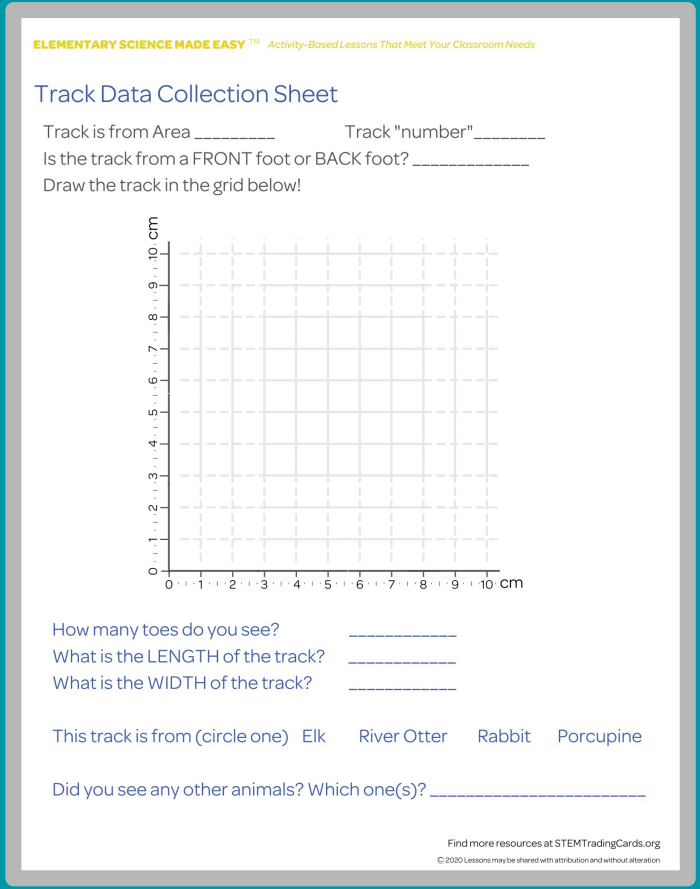
What do you think we can learn from this type of study?

Yes, this helps us know animals’ preferred habitats to sleep, eat, rest, and travel.

Knowing where animals sleep, eat, rest and travel helps us protect these animals and their habitats.

This is called a “wildlife survey,”

like Dr. Ramos does.



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Track Data Collection Sheet

Track is from Area _____ Track "number"_____

Is the track from a FRONT foot or BACK foot? _____

Draw the track in the grid below!

How many toes do you see? _____

What is the LENGTH of the track? _____

What is the WIDTH of the track? _____

This track is from (circle one) Elk River Otter Rabbit Porcupine

Did you see any other animals? Which one(s)? _____

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Today you will be assisting Dr. Ramos

in the field near the *Klamath River*,

in Yurok ancestral land,

and help to conduct a

"mammal survey!"

Your task is to go to four different areas

to look for mammals that are important to Yurok TEK.

Area A:

Hehlkeek ‘We-Roy

(Klamath River)

hehlkeek = “inland”
roy = “flow”

Area B:

Tepoonohl

The Forest

Area C:

Sepolah

The Prairie

Area D:

Raak

The Creek

You will be looking for, observing, and measuring tracks!

Do you see the Elk track?

You will also be looking for, observing, and drawing . . .

scat!

Your team will need to:

- Take accurate measurements of tracks and identify the animal associated with the print.
- Draw the scat and identify the animal associated with it.
- Record other animals found in the area.
- Consider why the animals might be in this area.

Tips for success when working in the field:

- Cooperation is essential with team members.
- Use respectful words to communicate.
- Measure and draw tracks/scat carefully and try not to disturb the track print.

This presentation is part of a series of lessons on Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK), Yurok culture, and ecology.

It aligns with NGSS 5-ESS3-1 *Obtain and combine information about ways individual communities use science ideas to protect the Earth's resources and environment.*

Lessons were developed in a collaboration between Science Delivered,Dr. Seafha Ramos, Cherie Paul, Maximiliano Quezada, and several other individuals. Please find the full lesson in the "free resources" section at STEMTradingCards.org.

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