 Activity 4: Neighbourhood Watch

What evidence of animal activity can you find around your neighbourhood?

You have already made many observations in this unit. You know that observations are made by seeing, smelling, touching, hearing, and sometimes even tasting. They are facts that you obtain using your five senses. Making observations is a skill used in all areas of science, but it is especially important during an investigation.

Resources

• Tracks and Sign Guides

<http://www.biokids.umich.edu/guides/tracks_and_sign/>

Instructions

1. Go to the following website and read the *Field Guide to Tracks and Signs* to complete the *Signs of Animal Activity Chart* below.

Safety Warning:

Please be sure to ask for permission from a parent or teacher before you go on your neighbourhood exploration.

2. Using the information as a guide, walk through your neighbourhood or a park area and look for as many examples as you can find.

\* Modification: If you cannot go outside, perform a web search for images of signs that you would expect to find left by animals in your area. Copy the links of these images to the *Field Observations Table.*

3. Draw and/or describe what you find in a notebook or use a camera to take pictures.

4. Record your findings in the appropriate spot on the *Field Observations Table.*

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Signs of Animal Activity Chart

Animal Tracks · How can you tell the difference between bird and animal tracks?

Bite and Chew Marks Deer and rabbits leave chew marks on Squirrels and rodents leave chewed up Insects leave chew marks on

Things Animals Build From the example given on the website, list the things animals build:

Things That Look Like Eggs Amphibian eggs are found in

Insects, spiders, slugs, and snails lay their eggs on

Things That Animals Leave Behind Birds might leave behind

Animals leave behind

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Field Observations Table |
| Did you describe any... | Describe what you found... |
| Animal Tracks |  |
| Bite Marks and Chew Marks |  |
| Things Animals Build |  |
| Thing That Look Like Eggs  |  |
| Things Animals Leave Behind |  |

5. Based on your field observations, what kind of animals do you think live in your area?

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