

# Animal Tracks

**Goal:** Tally, graph, and compare animals outside.

**You will need:**

- Paper
- Pen or pencil
- Color pencils

**What to do:**

- Go outside and look for signs of animal life. You can do this in your yard or explore a nearby park, hiking trail, or along the sidewalk. Do you notice any animals? Animal noises? Animal footprints, feathers, droppings? Figure out what you would like to track based on your observations.
- Set up a piece of paper to keep a tally of what you are tracking. You may divide the paper in half, writing the category or categories you are looking for on the left side and then tallies on the right side.
- Keep a tally for at least 5 minutes. Bundle 5 tally marks with four vertical lines and the fifth going across. If children are not familiar with bundling, you can practice this together or make vertical lines instead.
- After you explore, graph what you found.
- Compare what you saw.

**To think about:**

- If you can't go outside, try this activity by keeping a tally of the animals in your favorite book.
- Are there multiple types of graphs that show your data well?
- Instead of tallying, keep track of what you see by writing it down in words. For example, "a chirp from a bird," "a print in the mud," etc. Then when you are done with your adventure tally up the similar things you saw.
- If you live in a city you can keep track of what you see in your environment. For example, how many cars or how many people who are wearing a hat.

