

Track that Scat!

A RIF GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY COORDINATORS

Themes: Animals, Tracking, Nature

Book Brief: As Finn and her dog Skeeter venture through the woods, they discover which animals are close by from the scat left behind. Finn's new boots take home the evidence!

Author:

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Illustrator:

Carrie Anne Bradshaw



TIME TO READ!

Before reading: Ask children how they can tell if an animal has been in their yard. What do they look for? Tell them in this book the characters discover clues about animals by looking at their scat, commonly called “poop.”

RELATED ACTIVITIES

SCAT SNACK (AGES 5-12)

Ingredients: Tootsie Rolls

In this totally gross activity, have children wash their hands, then give each child a Tootsie Roll. Let children manipulate their Tootsie Roll to represent the scat of an animal they have seen in the book or online. Have others try to guess which animal is represented by the fake scat. When finished, you may want children to throw away the fake scat (too much handling), so have additional Tootsie Rolls for a treat.

ANIMAL ACTIONS (AGES 5-7)

Animals do more than poop! Their movements and the tracks they leave tell a lot about their size and activities. Have children take turns acting out an animal's behaviors while the rest of the group tries to guess the animal.



THE SCOOP ON POOP! (AGES 6-12)

Take children on an adventure to find poop. Remind them that this is not a hands-on activity! Walk around outside and see if anyone can find traces of animal scat. Let children draw pictures of the scat and guess what kind of animal they think left it. Compare findings to the chart at www.terrierman.com/scatanswers.htm.



TECHNOLOGY LINK

Visit www.whooped.org to learn more about animals and their poop!

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS ABOUT TRACKING ANIMALS

Get the Scoop on Animal Poop: From Lions to Tapeworms—251 Cool Facts about Scat, Frass, Dung and More! Dawn Cusick (2013), *Tracks, Scats and Signs (Take Along Guides)*, Leslie Dendy (1996), *Who Pooped in the Park? Yellowstone National Park: Scat and Tracks for Kids*, Gary D. Robson (2004).



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