# **Animal Track Trap**

Set up a mud trap and see who comes into your garden over night

9 -12

Biodiversity & Interdependence



## **Background information:**

Many people enjoy seeing wildlife in their grounds, or local area. Most of the time though we only see those that are active during the day, like birds on a feeder.

A simple soil/sand trap will allow you to capture the footprints of those unseen visitors and those that visit at night.

### **Equipment**

Soil or sand Trowel for spreading Tray (optional)

# Activity

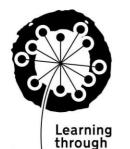
- Choose an area of your garden where you think animals may come in and out, such as a hole in a fence, near a bird feeder, or by a gate.
- Add water to your soil or sand. You are looking to get a consistency that will hold a shape, so try testing it by pressing your hands or fingers into it and see if an imprint remains.
- Spread your soil evenly over the ground and create a thick layer roughly 1-2cm deep. Smooth it down so you have a level flat surface. This is your 'trap'. (You may prefer to keep your soil in a tray, especially if you plan to place where people need access and will not like to get all muddy.)
- Leave the trap overnight and check in the morning for footprints.

#### Extension

Identify footprints using ID keys and charts

Try adding different foods to different areas of your trap and see where the footprints go.

Make a cast of any footprints using plaster of Paris



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