

# Animal Signs

Hello!

We're happy to welcome you to **Five Rivers Environmental Education Center** for an exciting nature quest: searching for the signs animals leave behind. Please let us know if there's anything we can do to make your visit go more smoothly.

Do any of your students have **special needs**? We can accommodate a wide range of physical challenges or learning disabilities. Please let us know in advance!

Objective of this Lesson: To increase the student's awareness of wildlife and their need for appropriate habitat.

Concepts Covered in this Lesson:

- Animals have basic needs which must be met in order for them to survive; these include food, water, and shelter.
- Animals are interdependent with each other and with their environment.
- As the seasons change, animals must adapt.

Behavioral Objectives of this Lesson: Students will explore a habitat under the direction of a naturalist and see examples of food caches, nesting and denning areas. They will follow animal trails and observe birds, small mammals and insects. Through simple games, they will experience some of the interactions of wildlife. They will examine nature "hands-on," and use the scientific tools of deduction, analysis, questioning and prediction to draw conclusions from their observations.

Preparations:

- DRESS for the outdoors! Students will be outside for the entire lesson. Check the back of this sheet for clothing tips.
- There must be at least one adult CHAPERONE per group. All Chaperones must assist the instructor and participate in the class.



-Consider bringing a SNACK for each child, to be eaten immediately before or during the class

We look forward to your visit and sharing a unique environmental experience with your students.

---

Answers to Food Web Activity, following page:

Sunlight to Flower Nectar to Honey Bee to Skunk to Great Horned Owl

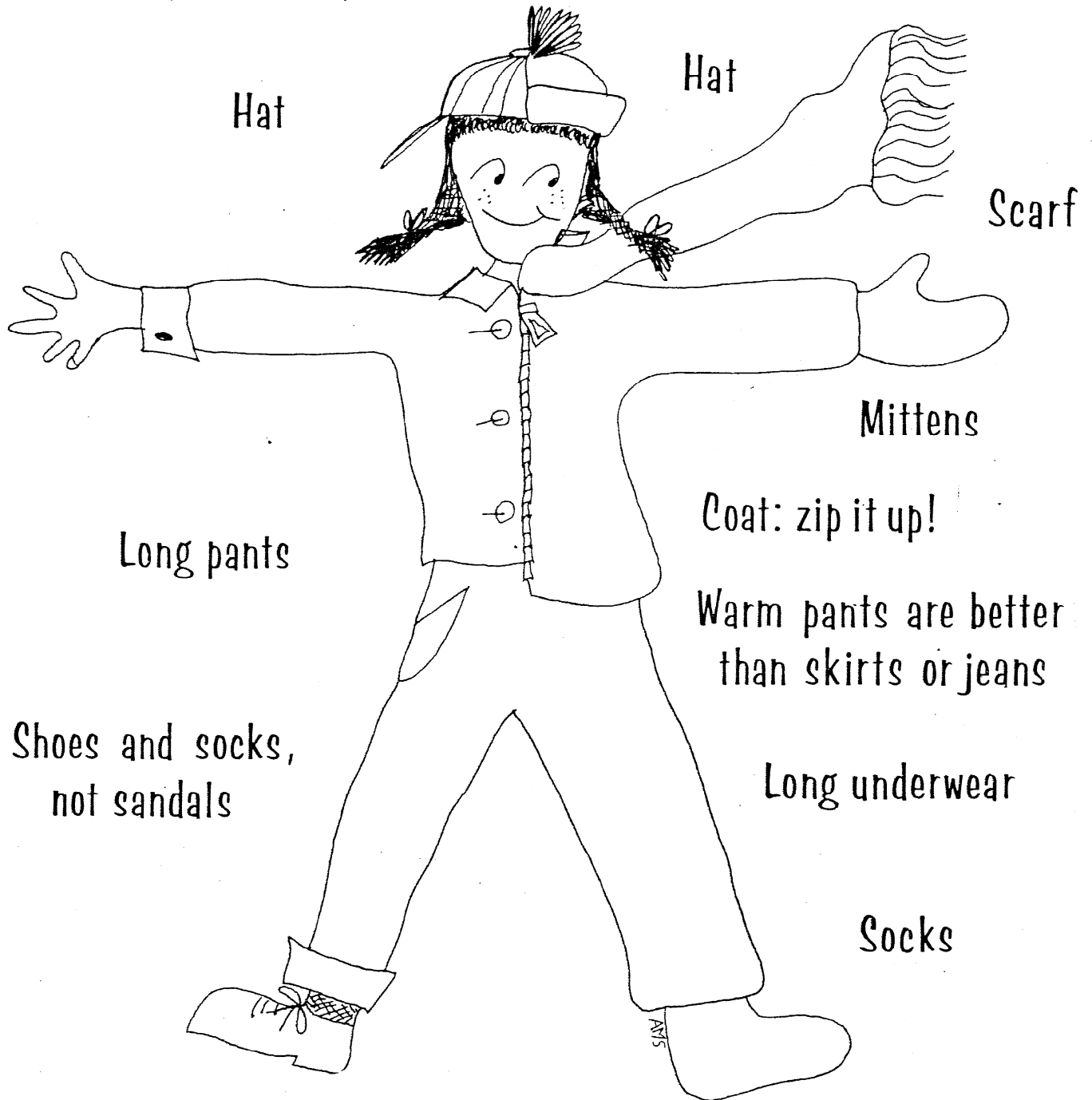
Sunlight to Grass to Rabbit to Red Fox and Grass to Mouse to Snake to Red tailed Hawk

DRESS LIKE ME IN:



SPRING, SUMMER, FALL

WINTER



Hat

Hat

Scarf

Mittens

Long pants

Coat: zip it up!

Warm pants are better than skirts or jeans

Shoes and socks, not sandals

Long underwear

Socks

Old sneakers or boots for aquatic lessons

Boots: at least ankle-high

## ANIMAL WORDS

1. **Food Chain** - the sequence in which energy is passed from one living thing to another. Plants are eaten by animals, which are eaten by other animals.
2. **Habitat** - the place where an animal or plant lives; its home.
3. **Hibernate** - to be in deep sleep with lower body temperature and slower heartbeat.
4. **Carnivore** - an animal that gets its energy by eating other animals. For example, a frog eats flies.
5. **Migrate** - to travel to a different place to live.
6. **Nocturnal** - active at night.
7. **Predator** - a hunter; an animal that must search for and kill its food. For example, a hawk is a predator of mice.
8. **Prey** - the hunted; an animal that is food for another animal. For example, grasshoppers are the prey of skunks.
9. **Herbivore** - an animal that gets its energy by eating plants. For example, a woodchuck eats grasses.

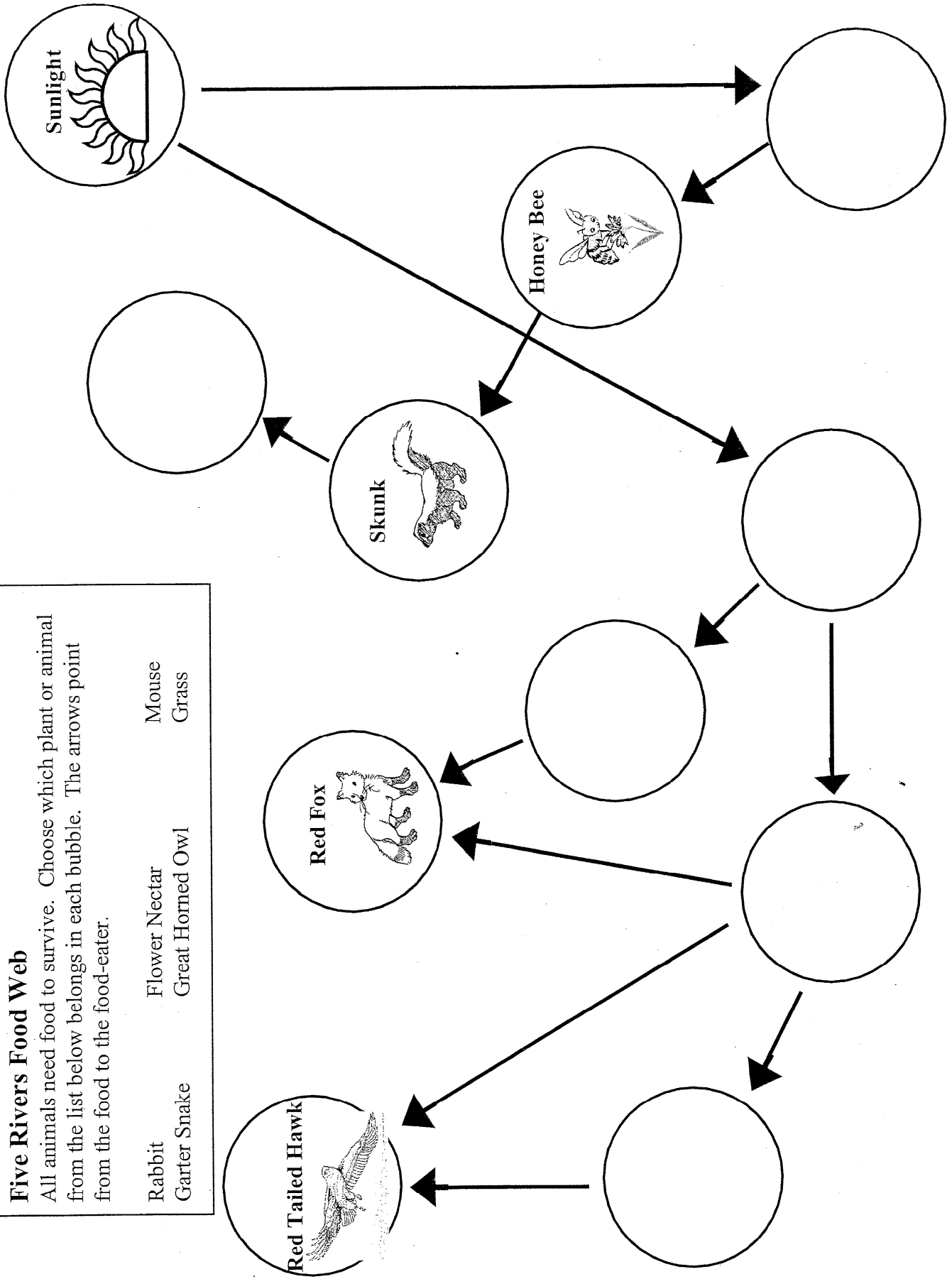
### FILL IN THE BLANKS USING THE WORDS UNDERLINED ABOVE

1. An animal that eats and travels at night is \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Foxes are \_\_\_\_\_s of rabbits.
3. Ponds are good \_\_\_\_\_s for ducks and herons.
4. In winter, the woodchuck enters a deep sleep, its body temperature drops and its heartbeat slows down, therefore the woodchuck \_\_\_\_\_s.
5. \_\_\_\_\_s eat twigs, bark, berries and other plant foods.
6. Some birds leave the area when it gets cold. They \_\_\_\_\_ south.
7. Animals that eat meat are called \_\_\_\_\_.
8. The mouse eats berries, the snake eats the mouse, and the hawk eats the snake. This is an example of a \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Ants are the \_\_\_\_\_of the woodpecker.

### Five Rivers Food Web

All animals need food to survive. Choose which plant or animal from the list below belongs in each bubble. The arrows point from the food to the food-eater.

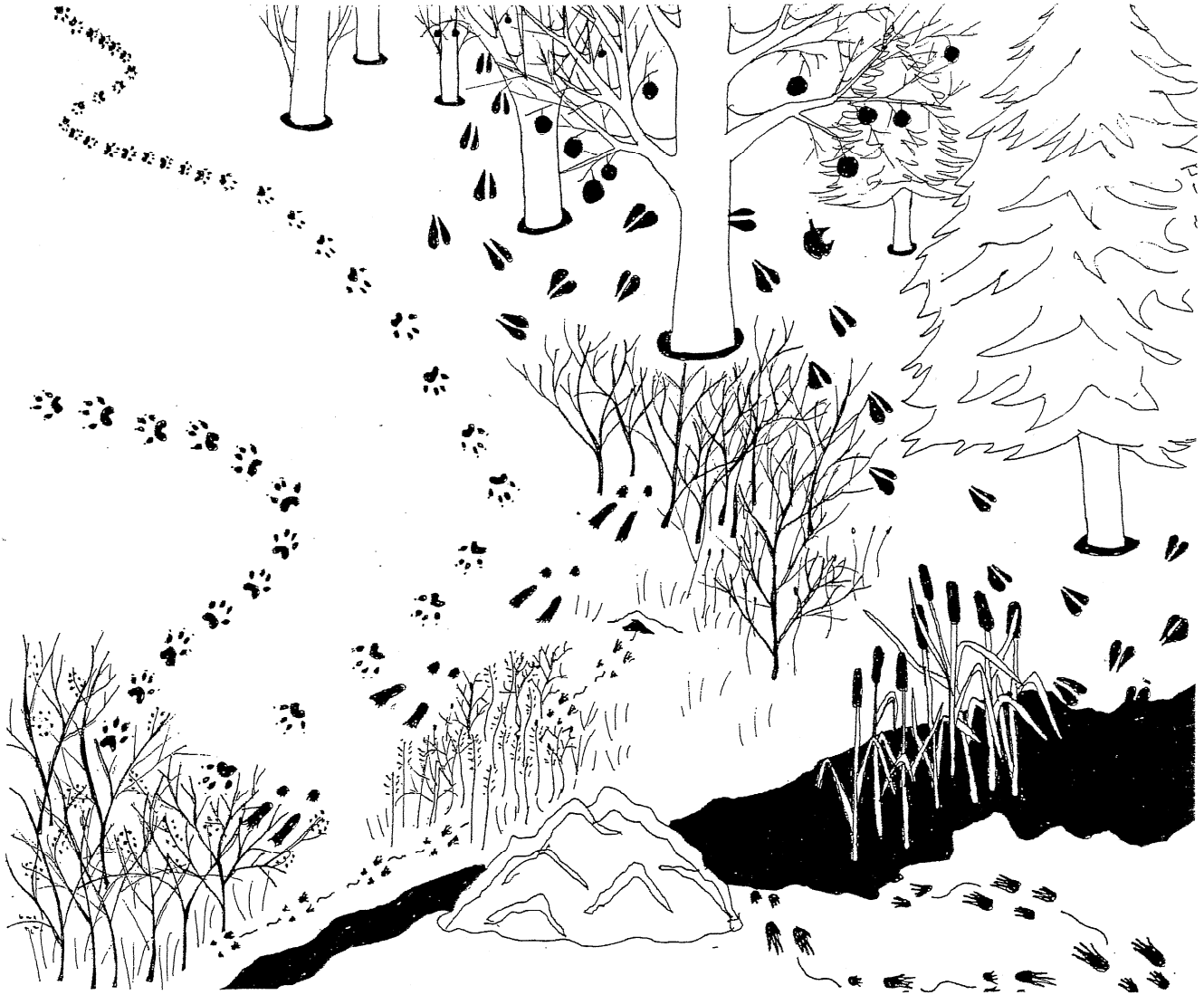
- |              |                  |       |
|--------------|------------------|-------|
| Rabbit       | Flower Nectar    | Mouse |
| Garter Snake | Great Horned Owl | Grass |



# TRACKING STORY

Tracking is an excellent way to study winter wildlife activity. Snow and mud record an animal's movements as the animal travels, feeds, and seeks shelter to meet its **survival needs**.

Use the "Animal Tracks" sheet for clues such as track shape, pattern, or habitat to identify the animals, and explain the action taking place in the picture. Write a story in the lines below.



---

---

---

---

---

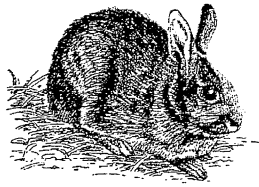
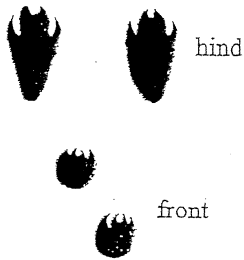
---

---

---

# ANIMAL TRACKS

## Cottontail Rabbit

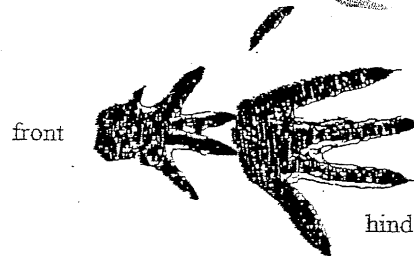


The prints of the front feet are in back of the prints of the hind feet.

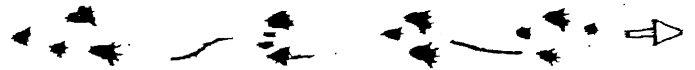


front hind  
paws feet

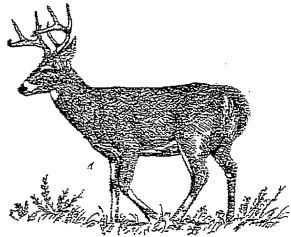
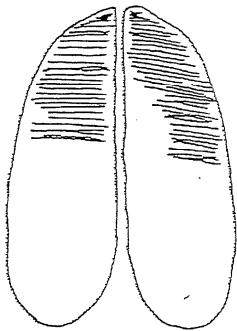
## Muskrat



Tracks showing drag mark of tail.



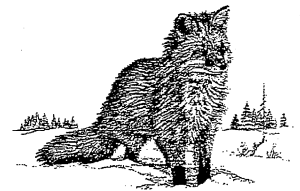
## White-tail Deer



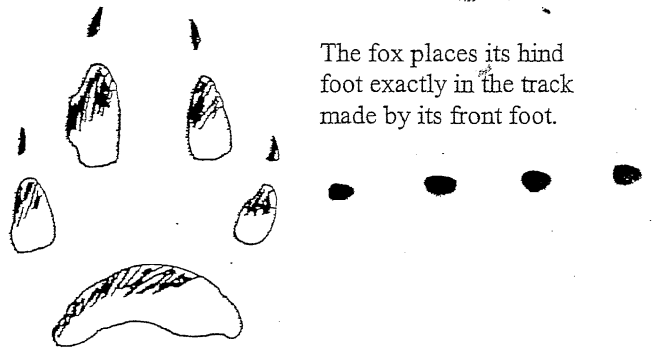
Typical heart-shaped tracks are pointed in the direction in which the deer is moving.



## Red Fox



The fox places its hind foot exactly in the track made by its front foot.



## Deer Mouse

