Animal Tracker

Notes

- This lesson will involve scientific writing and could involve the production of graphs and tables to show results.
- This lesson will need to be completed over two consecutive days.
- You could also experiment with multiple sand trays with different baits in each.

Starter

- Explain that scientists use different techniques to determine what animals live in certain areas. For example they could create simple pit fall traps to identify what minibeasts live nearby.
- We are going to be looking at different ways that we can tell mammals exist in an area.
- Remind the children what mammals are and create a list of the mammals that we can expect to see near to our school.
- Get the class to come up with ideas for detecting these animals.
- Explain that we are going to use animals footprints to tell what animals are living nearby and that we are going to produce a scientific report to explain our findings.

Activity

- Fill a large, shallow tray with sand and smooth the surface with the edge of a ruler or plank.
- Put a little pet food in the dish and stick it in the middle of the tray.
- Leave your tracker out overnight and see the next day if anything has left its footprints there. Throw the petfood away in the morning before it goes bad.

Plenary

- Have the children read their partners reports and suggest 2 things they like and one improvement that they would make next time.
- Feedback as a class on what went well and what the class would do differently next time.

Extension idea

- Differentiate through report scaffolding.
- Higher ability pupils to produce a methodology for their own experiment for monitoring small mammals

Orkney Native Wildlife Project

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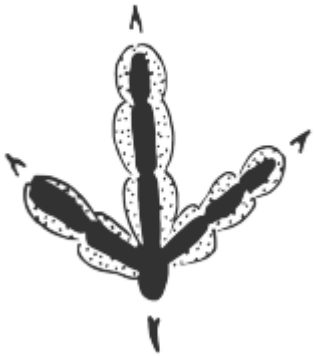
CARRION CROW

DOMESTIC DOG

COOT



WOODPIGEON

HOUSE SPARROW

MALLARD DUCK

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