In your classroom, work in small groups to share your knowledge of animals and animal tracks. As a group, discuss the following questions, and save your written answers to discuss after watching the video clips and at the end of your outdoor activity.

What are the basic features of an animal track?

Where would you look for animal tracks?

How would you identify an animal from its tracks?

What might tracks reveal about an animal, its behavior, and its habitat needs?

What other evidence or signs of wildlife, besides tracks, might you be able to observe?
ANIMAL TRACKS – WHAT DO THEY REVEAL?
Student Worksheet: Animal Track Data

Name(s) __________________________________________________________________

Location of trap _______________________________________ Date _________________

Type of bait used ______________________________________________________________________________

Step 1: Information on the track trap

1. **Describe the location of your track trap.** For example: on a path, near the dumpster, whether the ground is wet or dry, sunny or shady, lots of vegetation, near a building or people, etc.

2. **How many different individual animals can you distinguish among the tracks?**

3. **How many different species can you distinguish among the tracks?**

4. **Draw a picture.** Sketch the features located near the track trap. Also include tracks of each individual animal and its direction of travel (north, south, east and west). If possible, measure the stride length (distance between the heel of one foot and the heel of the opposite foot of the same animal) and describe the actions or movements of each animal whose tracks appear in the trap.
Step 2: Characteristics of the tracks

1. Document the characteristics of one animal track (complete one form per species).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Length in centimeters:</th>
<th>Width in centimeters:</th>
<th>Depth in centimeters:</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of toe imprints</th>
<th>Number of claw imprints</th>
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2. How many tracks from this animal did you observe?

3. Draw a sketch of this animal track.

4. Describe any clues that tell you what this animal might have been doing. (Such as running, moving towards or away from food or water, etc.)

3. Use a field guide to animal tracks to investigate which species of animal might have made this track. Write the name of the animal you think might have made the track. If you think there may be more than one alternative, indicate all possibilities and why.