

WHISTLER NATURE CAMP

Pro-D Day
Learning Series

Stealth and Camouflage

Series 4 of 6



Whistler
Community
Foundation



Association of
Whistler Area Residents
for the Environment

STEALTH & CAMO WORD SEARCH



Look for the words listed below.
Hint: words may be vertical, horizontal,
diagonal or even backwards!



P F L O W A H N L
R R F O X R E L E
E U E T E N F L A
D O J Y B O Y U V
A C H A S E H L E
T G T E V E T A S
O A E D A N L E E
R R N I U E F S E
T R O H C A M O K








Trees	Wolf	Hunt	Predator
Leaves	Fox	Hide	Prey
Seek	Lynx	Camo	Chase

SURVIVAL IN THE WILD

In addition to camouflage, animals have different physical characteristics that protect them from their enemies

Matching challenge: draw a line from each set of local animals to their defence mechanism (see answers below).

1		Snails, Turtles, Caddisflies	Sting / Poison
2		Cougar Bobcat, Lynx	Spines
3		Deer, Moose, Buffalo	Hard Shell
4		Porcupine, Three-spined stickleback	Sharp Claws
5		Wasps, Black widow spiders	Horns

(5) Sting / Poison

(4) Spines

(3) Horns

(2) Sharp Claws

(1) Hard Shell

PREDATOR VS. PREY

Did you know: A predator is an animal that hunts, catches and eats other animals. For example, a spider eating a fly caught at its web is a predator and so is a cougar eating a deer. The animals that the predator hunts are called prey. Prey can be meat eaters and/or plant eaters.



A top predator or apex predator is one that is not the prey of other predators. Predators are usually carnivores (meat-eaters) or omnivores (eats plants and other animals). Predators will hunt other animals for food.

The animals that the predator hunts are called prey. Prey can be meat eaters and/or plant-eaters. Some animals are both predators and prey.



Question: Do you think humans are predators or prey? Why?

YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT

It is important to have both meat-eaters (carnivores) and plant-eaters (herbivores). For a healthy ecosystem, it is important that the populations of plants, herbivores, and carnivores stay in balance.

Did you know: Carnivores play an integral role in maintaining healthy ecosystems by regulating deer as well as smaller mammal populations. In turn, this preserves species diversity.

Fill in the blanks to identify these local animals as herbivore (plant-eater), carnivore (meat-eater) or omnivore (meat and plant-eater).

1) Coyote



2) Cougar



3) Beaver



4) River Otter



5) Fox



6) Wolf



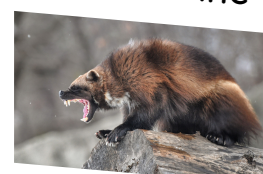
7) Bobcat



8) Deer



9) Wolverine



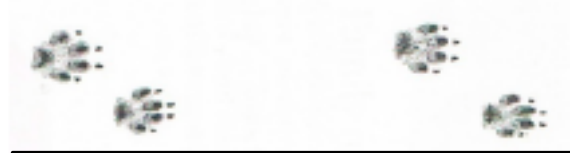
- 1) Omnivore 2) Carnivore 3) Herbivore 4) Carnivore 5) Omnivore 6) Carnivore 7) Carnivore 8) Herbivore 9) Carnivore

TRACKS AND TRAILS

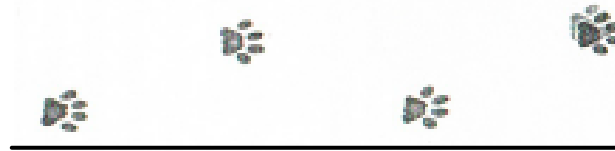
A great way to I.D animals in the wintertime is by looking for tracks and trails. Pay close attention to whether they are close together or far apart if they have claws, talons or webs, compare the size of the track to your human hand to get an idea of animal size as well.

Practice drawing animal tracks below by continuing these animal paths.

1) Fox



2) Bobcat



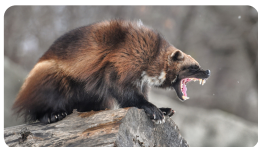
3) Beaver



4) Deer



5) Wolverine



COLOUR ME!

Camouflage is a visual disguise (physical adaptation). Without it, an animal would be recognized easily. If the natural colour of an animal makes it look like its surroundings - that is camouflage. A chipmunk's stripes in the long grass or a turtle in its shell. Colour the landscape and all of the animals below, get creative and add in some camouflaged animals of your own!



WHO'S WHO

Background:

Canine Tracks (Dogs, foxes, coyotes & wolves)



All canine footprints show four toes and a heel. Toenails make noticeable markings. A large dog, coyote, and wolf track can be very similar in shape, size, and length of stride. However, dog tracks usually wander aimlessly which distinguishes them from the more furtive tracks and usually very direct routes used by their wild counterparts. The easiest canine tracks to identify are fox tracks. Because a fox's chest is so narrow, its feet step directly in front of each other, creating a nearly straight line of footprints. During winter, all canines grow hair between their toes. These winter "snowshoes" blur the toe prints and you have to look more closely to identify the maker.

Feline Tracks (Bobcat, lynx, cougar)



Of all the larger predators, wildcats are the most likely to use the same trails again and again. In deep snow, their habitual routes become gully trails in which feline tracks going to and coming from their hunting grounds are preserved, down out of the wind, away from blowing snow.

A cat's sharp retractable claws do not show in its tracks unless the cat has lunged to catch its prey or scratched the ground to cover its droppings. Only cats thoroughly cover their droppings. Bobcat and Cougar tracks have three-lobed heels; Lynx has single-lobed heels.

Instructions: Head outside and get ready to look for the animals you can't actually see! Follow these helpful hints to learn about and I.D local animal tracks. Name the species you identified below. Did you find any other tracks on your hunt? Dog, human, rabbit or deer? Describe them below.

WHO'S WHO CLUES



Coyote: Dog Family (Canines)

Abundance: Common in Whistler

Food: Squirrels, rabbits, deer etc.

Fun Fact: Best runner in dog family (up to 40-50km)

Tracks: Oval-shaped, approx 2.25" x 2.5" prints four toes with claws



Grey Wolf: Dog Family (Canines)

Abundance: Less common lately

Food: Deer, moose, fox, birds etc.

Fun Fact: Howl to communicate over long distances

Tracks: Approx 5" x 4.5" prints four toes with claws



Red Fox: Dog Family (Canine)

Abundance: Rare in Whistler

Food: Rabbits, rodents, berries etc.

Fun Fact: Primarily nocturnal

Tracks: Forms nearly straight line 2" x 1.5" prints four toes with claws



Bobcat: Cat Family (Canine)

Abundance: Common in Whistler

Food: Hares, birds, rodents etc.

Fun Fact: Looks like a large housecat

Tracks: Approx. 1.5" x 1.25" prints four toes



Cougar: Cat Family (Canine)

Abundance: Rare in Whistler

Food: Rabbits, rodents, berries etc.

Fun Fact: Can jump horizontally up to 40 feet

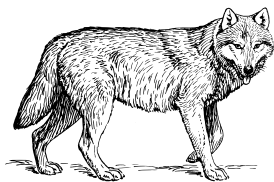
Tracks: 4" x 4" prints four toe pads in a semi circle

STEALTH IS WEALTH

Background:

Stealth means sneakiness. When you do something with stealth, you do it so quietly and carefully that no one notices (behavioural adaption).

Ambush predators or sit-and-wait predators are carnivorous animals. They capture or trap prey by stealth rather than just by speed or strength. They usually hide quiet and wait for prey to come within striking distance. They are often camouflaged and may be solitary. This may be safer for the predator because lying in wait exposes it less to its own predators. When a predator cannot move faster than its preferred prey, using stealth to ambush its prey is likely to be more efficient than pursuit.



Activity Instructions:

- Choose someone to be the prey.
- The rest of the players will be stealthy predators and hide along a trail while the prey closes their eyes and counts to 30.
- The predators must do their best to stay camouflaged but can only be hidden within 15 feet from either side of the trail.
- The prey will then open their eyes and walk the distance of the trail one time and stop at the end.
- Along the way, the prey will slowly look for predators and will try to call the names out of as many as possible if they're visible.
- All those who remain unseen win that round.



ALL ABOUT MY DAY

Use these sentence starters to write a journal. Complete one, two, or all of these lines below:

- My favourite part of the day was...

- The two most interesting things I learned were...

- I didn't expect to...

- Next time I'd like to...
