

South Australian Desert Parks

Tracks and Scats Activity Sheet

Detectives of the desert

Did you know, you can identify animals from the traces they leave behind, just like a detective at a crime scene. These traces include tracks and scats (this is poo).

Can you figure out who made these tracks?



HINT 1: I can hop up to 9 metres in a single bound



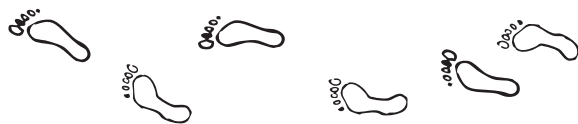
HINT 2: I'm a bird but I can't fly, instead I run fast



HINT 3: I'm an apex predator but I often scavenge my food

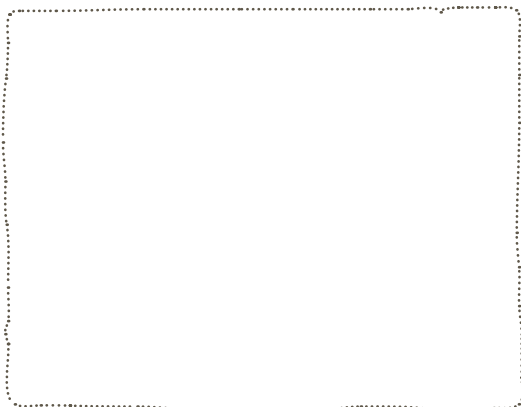


HINT 4: I have no feathers or fur and keep my body low to the ground



CHALLENGE

Find somewhere you can make your own tracks, do they look different if you walk or run?



Are there any tracks around you? Draw one in the box. Which direction is the animal going in? Where might it be heading?

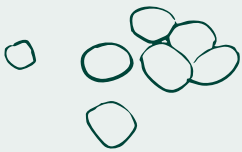


Australia has no native hoofed animals, if you see hoof prints, it is from an introduced animal like a camel or cow.





Can you match these?



SCAT



CONTENTS

Carapace
[insect bodies]

DIET

Carnivore



Fur

Herbivore



Seeds

Insectivore

What can you tell from a scat?

Features of the scat can tell us who made it.

Don't touch the scats with your hands though, as they can carry diseases.

What other features can you use to identify the scat-maker?

1

2

3



Who-done-it?

You can usually tell if a scat is from a reptile as there will be a small white hard section. This contains uric acid and is their way of urinating.

Can you find an animal scat? What does it look like and who might have made it? Do you think they have been here recently?

Fun fact

Rather than passing undigestible bones and fur all the way through their digestive tract, many carnivorous birds like owls, will cough them up. These often look like scats but are called pellets.



The National Parks and Wildlife Service acknowledges and respects the traditional custodians of the land



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