

# GUESS WHO!



Ever wondered what critters live in your garden?

This weeks project is to make a mammal tracking box to see what creatures have been visiting. The idea is to use a tunnel to capture footprints of creatures roaming your garden at night. We put food inside the tunnel to attract the animals and as they walk over the black ink they leave their footprints on white paper. Each species has different footprints so its great fun to see what has eaten your food - have a look at the link below to start identifying who has been visiting.

<https://ypfe.org.uk/factsheets/wildlife-1d/footprints-mammals>

## To make your mammal tracking box you will need:

An old cardboard box/thick sheet of cardboard  
Bird seed/mealworms/nuts/apple/cat biscuits  
Ink/Food dye (or see below)  
White paper  
Masking Tape  
Black paint - optional



1. Make your box into a tunnel (open up both ends, or shape it into a triangle and fix with tape/staples)
2. Paint your box - Ideally your box should be black, so that it blends in with the night (however, if you don't have black paint then don't worry)
3. Tape your white paper to the inside of the box or another piece of card/wood that you can easily remove it to check
4. Put 2 lines of masking tape at both the entrance and exit and then paint the tape with the black food dye. If you don't have food dye or ink you can make your own (the masking tape is important as the ink will sit on it rather than 'sink in' on paper, or just run off normal sellotape)
  - (To make your ink crush up some charcoal (to dust) and add a few drops of cooking oil - you want a thick black inky liquid. This is a little more eco friendly than ink too)
5. Put the food in the middle of the white paper
6. Leave you box/tunnel by a hedge/fence or in a pile of branches overnight

I put 3 boxes out on the same evening - all in different locations. Inside I put a couple of cat biscuits and dried fish (I thought that might attract hedgehogs, or the stoat I saw last week), plus some bird seed and suet.

However, my pesky dog decided she wanted the cat biscuits and so the main footprints I found were hers! I did also manage to identify some squirrel prints too. Its quite fun to do this over a few nights and in different locations, and make sure if you have a lid on your box that your dog, or cat, cant get in!

I'd love to know how you get on so please do send me your pictures (via your class teacher)