



Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature's Footprints

Jim Arnosky

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When children learn to recognize and read animal tracks they're actually mastering an ancient language of shapes and patterns—and gaining knowledge of the natural world. Acclaimed artist and naturalist Jim Arnosky has created a breathtaking and informative reference on the subject, filled with intricately drawn prints from creatures both wild and domestic, as well as large-scale paintings of the animals in their environment. Some of the art, labeled in Arnosky's own handwriting, even looks as if it came straight out of his personal notebooks. And best of all, many of the tracks are true to size, so kids can compare the trace left by a big-footed polar bear (whose paws act as snowshoes in its icy home) with that of a small bird. Adding to the eye-catching illustrations are four awesome gatefolds that display paintings of a bobcat, wolf, deer, and a variety of hoofed animals right next to their prints. Every spread has plenty of details on how to interpret the footprint, and the featured menagerie includes bighorn sheep and goats, chipmunks and rabbits, grizzlies and brown bears, horses and burros, domestic cats and dogs, and even slithering reptiles! This is the perfect gift for a budding naturalist, animal lover, or artist.

Jim Arnosky has been honored for his overall contribution to literature for children by the Eva L. Gordon Award and the Washington Post/Children's Book Guild Award for nonfiction. Many of his books have been chosen as ALA Notable Books, including *Drawing from Nature*, a Christopher Award-winner. *Wild Tracks!* is Jim's 100th book for children.

Wild Tracks!: A Guide to Nature's Footprints Details

Date : Published April 4th 2008 by Sterling

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Author : Jim Arnosky

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Genre : Science, Nonfiction, Childrens, Picture Books, Animals, Environment, Nature

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Tammie says

Animal lovers delight
Footprints
Habitat
gr1-3
Extend write about fave animal

Leah Koch says

My students have probably read a lot of books about animal facts, but this book presents a different perspective: identifying animals by their tracks. This scientific thinking will be great in preparation for life science units.

Caitlin says

Although a children's book, I found it very interesting and informative as an adult. At the very least, the illustrations were beautiful and the book serves as a crash course in identifying animal tracks. My favorite portion of the book, and the reason why I bought it, was the life-size track illustrations. I wouldn't suggest it to most adults for joy reading (I bought it partially because it was significantly on clearance), but if someone has a child that is particularly interested in animals and wild life, I think this would make a very good book for them. I also imagine this book being good for a family or scout camping trip, since it would not only reflect the wilderness but also provide an activity.

Sally says

Informative picture book for those wishing to identify tracks; has life-sized drawings of tracks as well as smaller drawings of track patterns and description of wildlife. Arnosky's books are generally very good.

Lori says

Great beginning book about reading animal tracks from a nature enthusiast, Jim Arnosky, who has been keeping wildlife journals, including drawings of animal tracks, since he was a boy. Beautiful illustrations and actual-size pull-out pages of tracks as well as descriptions of what the small and large animal tracks can tell you about the animal. Would be a great addition to the family library reference section.

Nicole says

Amazing!!! An absolute must for the young nature lover.

Heather says

45 months - a good learning book. We will often see and try to guess when animal made what kind of track when we are out hiking.

Michael Duffey says

Description: This book contains various animal tracks as well as interesting facts about said animal.

Genre: Non-Fiction

Intended Audience: Grades 2-3

Curriculum Connection: I would create a lesson in which my students would create their own footprint. The students could then create their own scientific field journal and record information regarding their footprint (whether it is their own footprint or one of a make believe animal or a real animal).

Personal Reaction: I really enjoyed flipping through this book and looking at the various animal tracks. I also liked how the book was written in the form of a field journal. I'm sure that students also enjoyed that. The text that was included, mimicked that of the authors actual handwriting, which add to the authenticity of it.

Visual Approval: The animal tracks that were included remained true to the size of the actual animal. This enables the reader to actually visualize the size difference between different animals. The handwritten facts about each animal assisted the reader in believing that this was an actual field journal.

Katie says

Nicely illustrated; fold-out pages reveal life-size footprints of various animals. Text is limited to information about the animals' feet, gait, track patterns, etc.

Kim says

The only reason I gave this book 4 stars instead of 5 was it ended so abruptly! I loved all the pictures and information. I think this book would be a fantastic accompaniment to an adventure book or to a study of Native Americans.

Suzanne says

A very informative beginners guide to identifying wild animals.

Teri says

Great camping/hiking book for looking at tracks.

Heather says

we've gotten this one a few times & am surprised I never rated it...Great life size animal tracks & detailed drawing & descriptions for tracking animals...we all enjoy it & learned something & bring something new away every time.

Melanie Berthiaume says

Wild Tracks: A Guide to Nature's Footprints

By Jim Arnosky

Categories/Genres for this class fulfilled by this book: Nonfiction

Estimate of age level of interest: 6 and up

Estimate of reading level: Grades 3-5

Brief description: Beautiful journal-like illustrations and basic information about animal tracks and how to find them.

Identify at least 2 characteristics of this genre(s) and subgenre and discuss how they appear in your book:
This book is one of many of Arnosky's beautiful and informative books for young people that fit the criteria in Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature text for strong nonfiction for youth. The author is well-qualified, sticks solely to its purpose, is clear and direct without being boring, organized in a journal-like style, and the illustrations are remarkable. It clearly shows the size relationships of animal tracks and encourages readers to get out and explore nature.

In what ways and how well does the book as a whole serve its intended audience?

The book serves its audience well in focusing on a single topic. It provides basic information without going too far. It encourages young people to get out and search for animal tracks which will surely serve the individual well. The fold-out pages show animal tracks in actual size, but may not hold up to a lot of use.

Awards if any:

Jim Arnosky has been honored for his overall contribution to literature for children by the Eva L. Gordon Award and the Washington Post/Children's Book Guild Award for nonfiction. Many of his books have been chosen as ALA Notable Books, including *Drawing from Nature*, a Christopher Award-winner. *Wild Tracks!* is Jim's 100th book for children.

Links to published reviews from professional sources e.g. ALA, Booklist, Kirkus, SLJ, etc. if any:

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-re...>

Jennifer Covington says

Great fun and informative book on animal tracks! My youngest loves this topic and picked it from the library. He goes through many types of animals and has actual life size prints too which is pretty cool. My favorite part was that he mentions keeping a journal of wild tracks and notes when he was young. Pretty cool that he made a book out of it.
