

HOP TO IT!



Students will move their bodies to learn about the different ways animals move based on their tracks.

Materials:

- Space to move around in

Instructions:

1. Discuss different ways animals move - waddling, walking, galloping, hopping, and bounding. How do we know what these look like and which animals move which way? From their tracks!
2. As a class, go through each movement type, or gait, and practice. Use the image below and following information for reference.

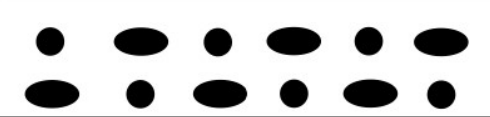




Waddling - both front and back foot move forward at same time

Walking (4 legs) - opposite front and back foot move at same time

Hopping - two smaller feet hit ground first, back feet land ahead of front feet

Bounding - reach out with front feet, bring back feet up just behind front feet

3. Once the class is confident, host a friendly race. Who can waddle the fastest? Walk the fastest? Bound the fastest?
4. Discuss - which is easier to do? Harder to do? Why do you think that is? What is the link between how animals move and their body type?

Gait	Speed/Pattern	Animal	Illustration
Waddling	Slowest, shuffle	Raccoon, skunk, opossum	
Walking (2 legs)	Slow, alternating	Goose, person	
Walking (4 legs)	Slow, alternating and diagonal	Cat, coyote, fox, deer	
Galloping (4 legs)	Faster, hind feet land in front of front feet	Dog, coyote	
Hopping	Hind feet land in front of front feet	Rodent, rabbit, bird, squirrel	
Bounding	Tight clusters of prints, front prints directly behind back	Weasel, mink	