

Best Foot Forward

EXPLORING FEET, FLIPPERS, AND CLAWS

A RIF GUIDE FOR PARENTS AND FAMILIES

Themes: Animals, Adaptations, Habitats

Book Brief: Step inside this book to play a fun guessing game of which animal each foot belongs to, all while learning interesting facts about different

types of animal feet.

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TIME TO READ!



Before reading, make predictions: Which animals do you think will be in the book based on the cover picture? Can you identify any of the animals on the cover? Try to guess them all!

While reading, create visual images: As you learn about the different animal feet, try

to picture a time you've seen some of these animals in the wild or at a science center or zoo. Think about

how the animals moved and how this relates to what you are reading about.

After reading, ask questions:

- ◆ Can an animal just have one foot?
- ◆ Which animal foot did you find the most interesting? Why?
- ◆ What are three new things you learned about animal feet?
- ◆ How have human feet changed and adapted to fit their habitat? (Hint: They got used to wearing shoes!)

RELATED ACTIVITIES

TRACK SNACK

Materials: sugar cookie recipe and ingredients, plastic toy animal

Mix up a batch of your favorite sugar cookies. While the cookies are baking, wash and dry a plastic toy animal of your choice. When your cookies are done, have an adult help you gently press the toy animal's feet into the warm cookie. Let the cookies cool and then enjoy your track snack!

WEBBED WATER PLAY

Materials: plastic baggie, rubber band

Place the baggie around your hand and have an adult help you secure it by placing the rubber band around your wrist. Fill the sink or bathtub with water and experiment to see what it might be like to have

webbed feet. Spread your fingers and run your hand through the water. Try again with your fingers closed. Do this a few times. What do you notice when your fingers are spread? Closed? Can you tell the difference in the way your hand is able to push through the water?

TRACK IT DOWN

Materials: large piece of cardboard, flour, peanut butter or other thick spread

Place a piece of cardboard in an area where you think an animal is likely to be. Dust the cardboard with flour and drop a small scoop of peanut butter in the center. Leave out overnight. Check for tracks the next morning. If there are no tracks, repeat the process. If there are tracks, try to identify the animal using only its footprint.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

OTHER BOOKS BY THIS AUTHOR

Animal Architecture (2014)

Monkeys and Apes in the Wild (2009)

Nomads of the Wind (2009)



Reading Is
Fundamental