

**Welcome/** Staff/Volunteer Names

**Introduction:** **Today's Topic-Animal Signs and Sounds**

**Question: How do animals communicate with each other?**

**Ice Breaker/ Game:** **Noah's Ark**

**Background/** Highlight basic mammal characteristics (contrast with birds).

**Exploration:** [hair/fur, babies drink milk, glands, keen senses, large brains, some-horns/antlers]

**Kinds of mammals**-Hooved Mammals, Carnivores, Rodents, Insect Eaters, ...

**Communication:** Mammals keen senses, large brains, and glands allow them to communicate in different ways to others of their kind, as well as different animals.

They may call, sing, growl, use body language, or leave scents or signs in various ways. How do we communicate?

**Activity:** Students take turns miming emotions, while other students guess. E.g. Mad, sad, happy

**Signs-Scat** (or poop) can be a type of communication. There are different types for different animals. Its scent can leave messages for other animals.

**Tracks**-Each kind of animal leaves its own kind of track. We can tell what an animal was doing by using track signs, like walking, running, jumping, etc.

**Activity:** **Making tracks**-Put baby powder on students shoes. Let them take turns walking, running, or jumping down a long sheet of dark cloth on the floor. Discuss the trails.

**Teeth and Feet**-briefly show & discuss different animal feet adaptations

**Antlers/Horns**-Look at antler display and mention mate attraction, territory, and battling for advantage during mating season.

**OUTDOOR** Search for tracks & scat near stream, in woods, etc. Talk about

**EXPLORATION:** what animals left the signs. Look at deer scrapes and explain. Bird Calls.

**Game:** **Deer Danger**

**SEND OFF:** Goodbye!

**Next Month's topic-Squirrels**

**TAKE HOME:**

Parent Outline  
Plaster track

### **Vocabulary**

Communication, mammal, glands, scent, antler, horns, deer scrape, carnivore, herbivore

### **Background and Activity References**

Bright, Michael. 1990. *Barks, Roars, & Siren Songs: How Animals Talk to Us & How We Talk Back*. Carol Publishing Group, NY.

Caduto, Michael J., and Joseph Bruchac. 1991. *Keepers of the Animals: Native American Stories and Wildlife Activities for Children*. Fulcrum Publishing, Golden, CO.

*Ranger Rick's Naturescope: Amazing Mammals Part & II*. 1987. National Wildlife Federation, Washington, D.C.

Shedd, Warner. 1994. *The Kids' Wildlife Book*. Williamson Publishing, Charlotte, VT.

*The National Audubon Society Field Guide to Mammals*. 1980. Chanticleer Press, Inc., NY.