



## Transcript for *Tracks in the Snow* (Square Fish, an Imprint of Macmillan) Preview Video

### Preview (0:00 – 7:19)

Hi everyone! It's Colleen from the KU Natural History Museum, and I am so excited to remind you about tomorrow's Story Book Science, here on Facebook Live at 10am. I will be reading the book *Tracks in the Snow*. This book is written and illustrated by Wong Herbert Yee, and it is being read with permission from Square Fish, which is an imprint of Macmillan. So thank you to them for the permission to read this book.

Now, the title of this book is *Tracks in the Snow*. So, when we read this book, we are going to be reading about a young girl who's exploring the forest and, in the snow that covers the forest floor, finds these tracks.

Well, before we try to identify an animal or something else that made those tracks, we need to talk about what tracks are. Do you know what tracks are? Tracks are impressions or markings, usually made by footprints, that you can find in a substance like snow or dirt, something on the ground. So, tracks are these markings that are left behind by an animal. Now, tracks, that is a very important word. And we're going to talk about it a lot when we read this book. So, we are going to put the word tracks on the wall as a vocabulary word.

So now that we know what tracks are, what I want us to do is I want us to think about what animals might make tracks in the snow. What animals do you think could make tracks in the snow?

Maybe you think a cottontail rabbit might make tracks in the snow. So this is an image of a cottontail rabbit. And the cottontail rabbit, it can leave tracks. It can leave these markings that it makes using its feet. And those markings may look like this. Now this is just an illustration. So somebody drew a picture of what these markings may look like. But if you were to see those markings in the snow or in the dirt or on the ground, it would look a little bit like this. Now what you notice about this track, or this marking, made by the rabbit's foot is that it's very long, and it's very oval-shaped. Do you notice that? Now that is one way we can identify this track as the track of a cottontail rabbit, that really long oval-shaped footprint.

Now if you were to see many of these footprints, so one footprint right after the other. So imagine that these footprints continue all the way up. It would look like the rabbit had been leaping. And that's because rabbits leap, or they walk, and they have a little jump in their step. So, that is how we can use these tracks to identify rabbits. So I'm going to put this down.

What other animals do you think could make tracks in the snow? What about a bird? Maybe a mallard duck can make tracks in the snow. What would that track look like? Well, this is what the mallard duck looks like, and its tracks are made using its feet. And mallard ducks have webbed feet. They're these aquatic birds. So they have webbed feet, and they need these feet to help them move around in water. So they have a very distinctive web shape to their foot. So if you were to see that as a track, it would look – whoops. It would look like this. So you can see that this marking, this impression, made by a duck's foot, it has that web shape. So, we know that this is the track, or the footprint, the impression, of a mallard duck's foot. Alright?

Now, maybe you think the animal that made the track was a human like you or like me. What would a human's track look like? Maybe it would look like a shoe print! So maybe it would look like this. Now this is a shoe print that I made using my shoe. So I used this shoe to make this shoe print. So this is my track. And I know that it's my track because the bottom of my shoe matches the shoe print. So I'm going to hold them up at the same time, and I want you to look at the bottom of the shoe, as well as the shoe print, just to make sure that I'm telling the truth that this shoe print is my track.

Alright?

So, humans can make tracks as well. And usually they're shoe prints or footprints. And in this case, I made a shoe print using this shoe. I'm going to put these back.

And before I go, I have one question I want to ask you. Are tracks the only things that animals leave behind? If they're in an area, are tracks the only things that animals might leave behind to show you that they were in a place? Are they the only things that animals can leave behind that we can identify, so we know what animal was in that place? What do you think? Do you think that animals might leave other things behind? And if you do think that, what are those other things? What could animals leave behind be, besides tracks that indicate that they've been in an area?

Alright. So what I want you to do is I want you to either keep thinking about that or if you have thought about it and you think of something that animals might leave behind besides tracks, I want you to keep that, store that information. And then come back tomorrow for Story Book Science, here on Facebook Live at 10am. And we'll talk about some of those things. We'll talk about tracks, and we'll talk about tracks of some other animals. And we'll talk about if animals can leave other things behind. We'll also read the story *Tracks in the Snow*, and we'll figure out who or what is leaving those tracks. So I'll see you tomorrow at 10am! Bye!