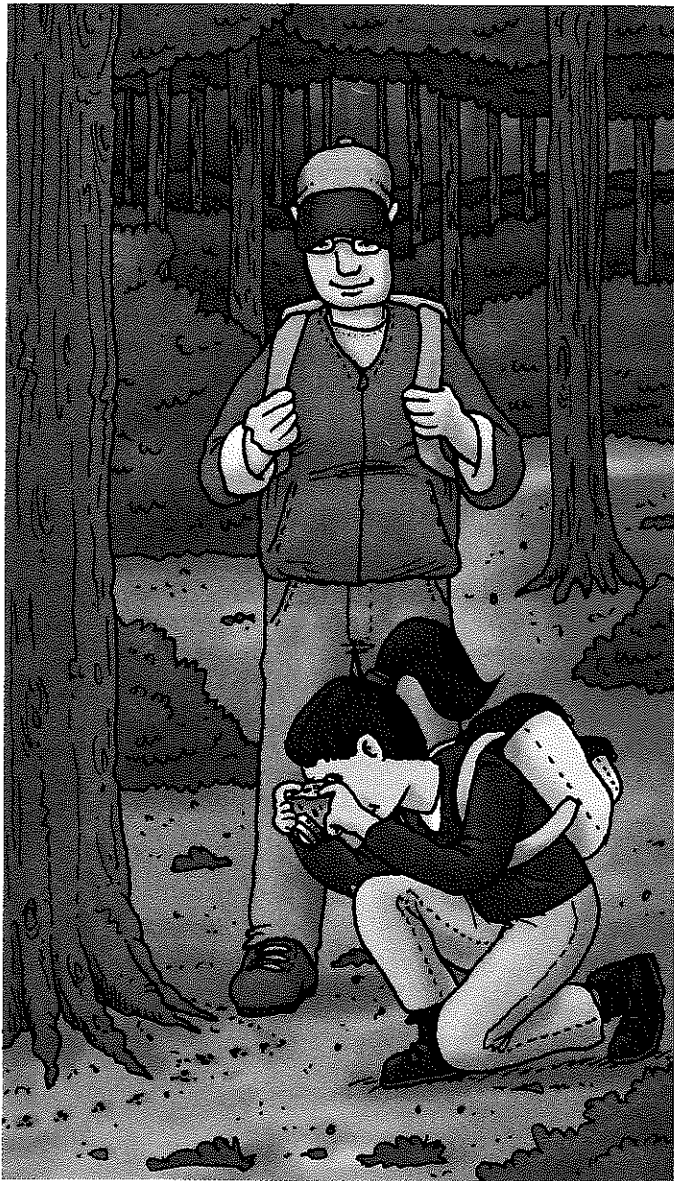


On the Right Track

Where could you look for animal tracks?

1 The more time Amira and Dad spent hiking the Appalachian Trail, the more Amira enjoyed living in Virginia. She and Dad had seen squirrels, chipmunks, and many types of birds on their hikes. Amira kept seeing animal tracks, but she didn't know how to identify them.

2 "Why don't we bring Mom's digital camera with us on our next hike?" suggested Dad. "Then, we can take some pictures of the tracks we've seen. When we get home, we'll go to the library and see if we can find a book that has pictures of animal tracks."



3 "That's a great idea, Dad!" said Amira excitedly. "Do you think we might find some bear tracks?" she asked.

4 Dad raised his eyebrows. "I don't think I want to get that close to a bear," he said. "Actually, you and I probably don't hike far enough into the woods to see one."

5 "Well, I still hope we find some bear tracks," said Amira.

6 That weekend, Dad and Amira drove to a section of the Appalachian Trail that they hadn't hiked before. They brought lunch with them so they could spend the whole day in the woods. As soon as they got started, Amira spotted some tiny tracks in a muddy area near a tree. Dad showed her how to use the digital camera to take a close-up picture of the tracks.

7 "Good eyes!" he commented. "I think I would have walked right past those tracks."

8 As the day went on, Amira took pictures of more and more animal tracks. She seemed to see a new set every few minutes. By the end of the day, Amira was tired and dirty, but happy.

9 When they got home, Mom was excited to hear about their adventures. She knew that Dad and Amira were looking for tracks along the trail, so she had bought a small identification guide for them.

10 "This is great, Mom!" said Amira. She began flipping through the guide until she located pictures that looked like the ones she had taken that afternoon.

11 "Did you find any matches?" asked Mom.

12 "I found a lot of matches," answered Amira. "We took pictures of chipmunk, raccoon, deer, and skunk tracks."

13 "No bears?" asked Dad.

14 "Not yet," said Amira. "But I'm going to keep looking!"

Vocabulary Skills

Write the words from the story that have the meanings below.

1. liked

_____ Par. 1

2. footprints

_____ Par. 1

3. offered an idea

_____ Par. 2

4. a part or portion

_____ Par. 6

5. found

_____ Par. 10

In each row, circle the word that does not belong.

6. squirrel chipmunk tracks deer
 7. photo detailed picture camera
 8. rare common usual ordinary
 9. identify library match prove

Reading Skills

1. Check the phrase that best describes the author's purpose.

_____ to explain where to look for bears on the Appalachian Trail

_____ to tell a story about the tracks a girl and her dad find while hiking

_____ to persuade the reader to take photos of animal tracks

2. Who do you think would rather see a bear—Amira or Dad? Why?

3. Name two types of tracks Dad and Amira found.

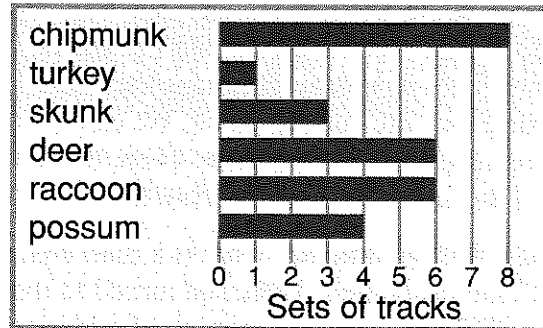
4. Why did Dad and Amira bring lunch with them?

5. How did Amira use the identification guide?

6. Why does Dad say, "Good eyes!" to Amira?

Study Skills

The bar graph below shows the types and numbers of animal tracks that Amira found during hikes in the fall. Use the graph to answer the questions that follow.



1. How many sets of deer tracks did Amira find?

2. Amira found the same number of tracks for two animals. What animals were they?

3. What type of track did Amira find only one set of?
