

# Make an Animal Track Cast!

## Materials you will need:

- Plaster of Paris
- A plastic sandwich baggie
- A small cup of water
- Small shovel or utensil



**1. Find a track:** First find an animal track. Look in areas where the ground is soft such as wet sand or mud.

**2. Mix plaster with water:** Fill a plastic baggie with about one cup of plaster of paris. Pour a small amount of water into the plastic baggie. Pour just enough water so that the mixture is thick, but smooth, similar to consistently of pancake batter or toothpaste (about 1 part water to 2 parts plaster). Once mixed work quickly, it will start to harden within 10 minutes. **NOTE: Be careful to only add a little water at a time until the right consistency is reached. If too much water is added, the plaster will be very runny and it will take a long time to harden.**

**3. Pour plaster into track:** Cut a hole in one corner of the baggie and carefully squeeze/pour the plaster into the track to fill it up and have some extra on top. Pat down the plaster into the track with a plastic utensil being careful not to alter the track. You can smooth out the top if you want a flat surface on the back.

**4. Let it harden:** Let it sit for 30 minutes to 1 hour and check if the cast has hardened. Wait until it has hardened completely before you remove it. If conditions are cold and wet this may take longer. You can even let it sit overnight if it's in a place where it will be protected.

**5. Scoop it out:** Once the cast is dry, dig around and under the cast to get it out of the ground then brush off the dirt. Avoid trying to pry it out of the ground it's still fragile. Wrap it in paper towels and let it dry overnight. After drying for another day or so you can wipe the cast with a wet cloth to remove the rest of the dirt.

