

Make your own “binoculars”

Materials needed for each student: two empty toilet paper tubes
string

Shared materials: stapler
single hole punch
crayons or coloring pencils

Student Instructions: Line the tubes up side by side and staple them together. Punch a hole near one end of each tube and tie the string between them so you can hang your “binoculars” around your neck. Decorate them with drawings of the animals you’ve seen. Take your binoculars outside and look through them to spot wildlife. They won’t make distant things appear closer, but they will help you to focus on one animal or object at a time to concentrate on it closely.

Scat Rap

Go to www.cforkids.org to try out the Scat Rap, all about animal droppings. Have your students make up their own verses about what they find as they explore outdoors.

Scat Unwrapped

If you find scat while you’re exploring outdoors, use a stick or wear rubber gloves and break it apart. Try to figure out what kind of animal left the scat, and what it ate. Though not scat, owl pellets are fascinating to dissect since they contain bones, in addition to fur. Class sets of sterilized owl pellets for dissection are available from science suppliers.

Teacher Workshops

For teachers who have participated in a Project WILD or Flying WILD workshop, the following activities complement the current issue of *Conservationist for Kids*. For information about workshops to obtain these curriculum and activity guides visit

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/education/2035.html>

Project Wild Activities

Learning to Look, Looking to See
Urban Nature Search

Flying Wild

Bird Buffet
Feeder Frenzy

More Great Stuff

Printable activity sheets can be found on the *Conservationist for Kids* website: www.cforkids.org

Recommended Resources (additional resources are listed in *Conservationist for Kids*):

Animal Tracking and Behavior by Donald & Lillian Stokes (Little, Brown & Company, New York, 1986)

Exploring Nature in Winter by Alan M. Cvangara (Walker & Company, New York, 1992)

A Field Guide to Animal Tracks (3rd edition) by Olaus J. Murie & Mark Elbroch (Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 2005)

National Audubon Society North American Birdfeeder Handbook by Robert Burton (Dorling Kindersley Publishing, Inc., New York, 1995)

“Winter Tracks” pullout in *Conservationist*, February 2001. At <http://www.dec.ny.gov/4791.html>

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The Scat Rap

CHORUS: It starts with an "S" and it ends with a "T"
It comes out of you and it comes out of me.
I know what you're thinking, but, don't say that.
The scientific word for that is scat.

You're walking through the woods and your nose goes "ooh".
You know some animal's laid scat near you.
It may seem gross, well that's O.K.
They don't have toilets to flush it away.
Now don't go screamin' and loose your lunch
If you picked it apart you could learn a bunch about - SCAT

CHORUS:

If you wanna find out what animals eat.
Take a good look at what they excrete.
Inside of their scat are all kinds of clues,
Parts of food their bodies can't use and that's - SCAT

CHORUS:

If you park your car in a woods or a field
You might find scat on your windshield.
Some of it's purple and the rest of it's white
You just got bombed by a bird in flight and that's SCAT

CHORUS:

It tells us what they eat and it tells us who they are
That's what we know about scat so far.
If you wanna find out what animals are around,
The place to start looking is the scat on the ground.

CHORUS:

Words based on "Scat Rap" written by Rodd Pemble, Mary Keebler and Andy Bennett,
Great Smoky Mountain Institute.
Word adaptation and music by Peter Moore and Tom Ernst.