

Explore Your Surroundings

Can you find:

A twig

A leaf

An acorn

- Branches and twigs support leaves, they hold them up to receive the sun's light and warmth.
- Leaves provide food for the tree. They use a special process called photosynthesis to convert energy from sunlight into sugars and starches that the tree uses as food.
- Acorns are nuts from oak trees. There are six different species in Southern Ontario. Can you identify which tree your acorn came from?



Bur Oak



Black Oak



White Oak



Swamp White Oak



Pin Oak



Red Oak

Photo Credit: Purdue University

Can you touch:

Smooth bark

Rough bark

A pine cone

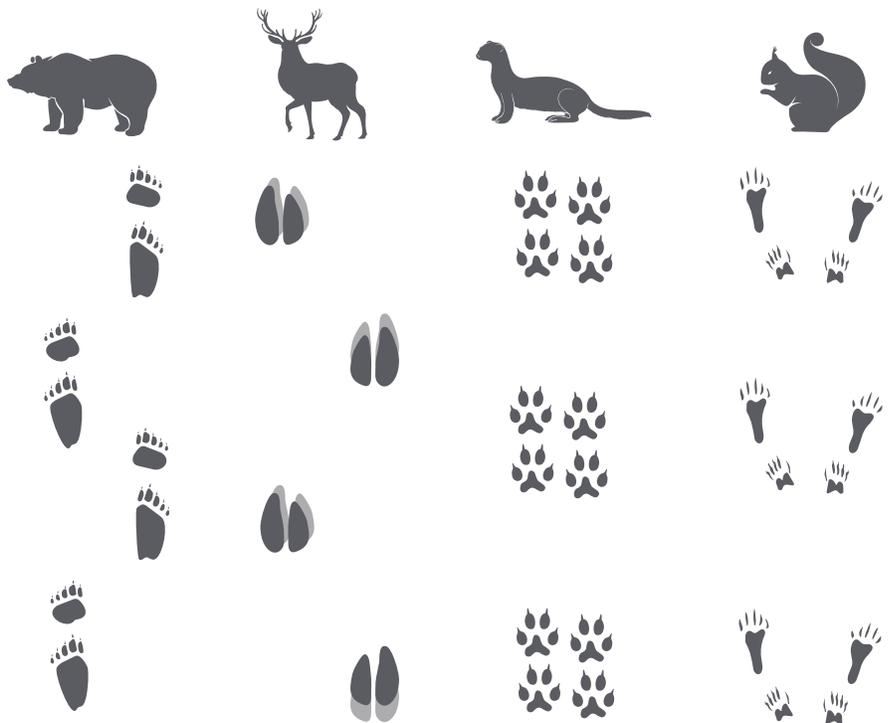
- Smooth bark grows slower, making it hard for trees to heal and limits the overall growth of the tree.
- Rough bark occurs from rapid growth. It allows speedy repair and helps retain moisture.
- A pine cone can stay on a tree for more than 10 years before dropping to the ground.

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Can you see:

- A bird
- An insect
- Animal tracks

- Birds play a vital role in nature. They're important pollinators and they eat insects. Birds are a natural way to control pests.
- Insects are very important decomposers. They help break down and dispose plants. And they're the sole food source for many amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals.
- There are four main types of movement: pacing, diagonal walking, bounding and galloping. Which type can you find?



Pace

Diagonal

Bound

Gallop

- Pace:** Both limbs on one side of the body move at the same time
- Diagonal:** Opposite front and rear limbs move at the same time
- Bound:** They reach out with the front limbs and pull the rear limbs directly behind them
- Gallop:** They push off with the rear limbs, hit the ground with the front limbs and bring the rear limbs all the way forward.



Credit Valley Conservation
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