



**Part 3**

Answer the questions below using the Winter Track Mystery.

1. Look at the human tracks. What do you think that person was doing at Craters of the Moon?

**The human was hiking with snowshoes.**

2. a) Which came first: human tracks or weasel tracks? the weasel

b) How do you know?

**The weasel's tracks are visible on top of the snowshoe tracks. If the weasel came first, its tracks would be covered by the snowshoe tracks.**

3. Why was the squirrel moving from tree to tree?

**It was probably searching the pine cones at the base of the trees for seeds to eat.**

4. Weasels are very curious animals. What evidence from the Winter Track Mystery supports this statement?

**The weasel did not travel in a straight line. Instead it travelled back and forth around bushes and rocks. It also crossed the paths of three other creatures and followed the human tracks for awhile, so it may have been following the scent trail of others.**

5. a) What happens to the rabbit?

**The rabbit was eaten by the coyote.**

b) What evidence supports your idea?

**The coyote's tracks intersect then follow the rabbit tracks. The messy track pattern of the two shows a struggle, then the rabbit tracks do not continue.**

6. Recall that there are three ways animals can cope with winter. List them below:

1. **Escape/Migrate**
2. **Avoid/Hibernate**
3. **Adapt**

7. a) How did the creatures in the Winter Track Mystery cope with winter?

**All of these creatures adapted to winter.**

b) Provide at least 2 reasons to support your answer.

1. **They were all active in the snow, so they were not avoiding and had not escaped.**
  2. **The human put on large snowshoes to make travel easier.**
  3. **The squirrel stored pine cones at the base of several trees for a food supply.**
- Other probable adaptations include:**
4. **All probably added extra layers of fur or clothes to stay warm.**
  5. **The weasel's coat would have turned white so it could blend in with the snow.**



**SnowSchool Winter Track Mystery Activity**

Name: Answer Key

**Part 1**

Several creatures remain active during winter at Craters of the Moon. The tracks they leave behind create a Winter Track Mystery for you to solve. First, match the creature on the left to the correct track pattern on the right.

1. Draw a line from each creature to its track pattern.

The matching activity consists of five creatures on the left and five track patterns on the right. Lines connect them as follows:

- Squirrel** is connected to the track pattern consisting of two small circles followed by two pairs of small ovals.
- Coyote** is connected to the track pattern consisting of four pairs of small ovals.
- Weasel** is connected to the track pattern consisting of four pairs of small ovals, with the second pair crossed by a line from the squirrel's track.
- Rabbit** is connected to the track pattern consisting of four large ovals.
- Human with snowshoes** is connected to the track pattern consisting of four small circles.

A 'Direction of travel' arrow points to the right.

Now turn to the Winter Track Mystery on the next page.

# Winter Track Mystery

## Part 2

1. Using your answers from the matching activity, write the name of each creature on the line next to each track set.

2. The arrows show the direction of travel for several creatures. For the two that are missing, figure out the direction of travel and draw an arrow next to the tracks.

3. Color each set of tracks using a different color for each animal. When you are done, turn to the back page.

