

# Fake Animal Scat

## ANIMAL GROSSOLOGY in the Classroom

### What you do:

Hand out the Animal Scat Identification Charts. Explain to the students that scat is the name for poo that is found in the wild. This chart shows the scat from different wild animals. The first column of animals are herbivores, which means that they only eat plants. The middle column shows carnivores, or meat-eating animals. The last column lists omnivores, or animals that eat a mixture of plants and animals. Ask the students if they notice any similarities among the herbivores. (The scat is more round and it is small.) How about among the carnivores? (The scat is pointed at one or both ends. It is long and thin.) And the omnivores? (This scat is variable. However, it is usually oblong rather than round.)

Tell the students they will choose one animal scat from each of the three categories to model. Distribute the clay or oatmeal poo mixture, sheets of paper, and pencils. Once completed, a scat model is placed on a sheet of paper and labeled with the animal's name and whether it is an herbivore, carnivore or omnivore.

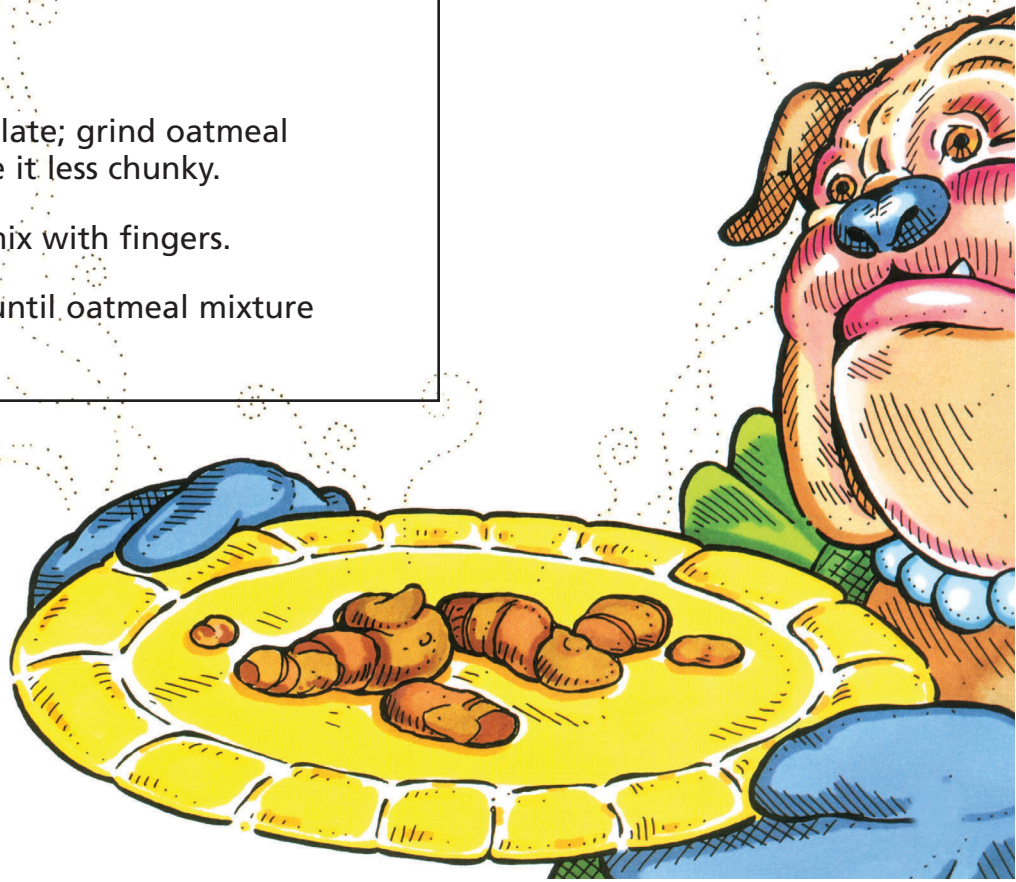
### What you need (per student)

- Animal Scat Identification Chart
- 3 sheets of paper
- Pen or pencil
- $\frac{1}{2}$  cup of clay or oatmeal poo mixture

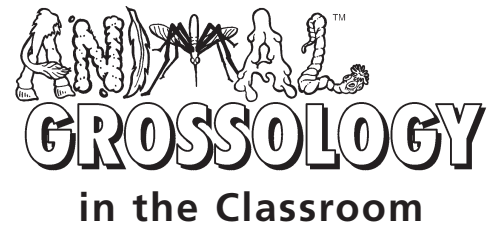
### Recipe for oatmeal poo mixture

Measuring cup	Teaspoon
Oatmeal (not instant)	Water
Cocoa powder	

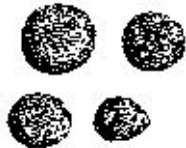
1. Place  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup oatmeal on plate; grind oatmeal with your fingers to make it less chunky.
2. Add 2 teaspoons cocoa; mix with fingers.
3. Add water little by little until oatmeal mixture can be molded.



# Animal Scat Identification Chart



## Herbivore



### Rabbit

Round, slightly squashed pellets of finely chewed plant material. Dark brown, tan or black depending on food.

## Carnivore



### Fox

Note tapered ends and hair in scat. Fox scat will almost always have these two features, and it may be thicker or thinner depending on food, animal, and level of decomposition.

## Omnivore



### Raccoon

Note blunt ends and uniform thickness, like a Tootsie Roll. Scat will contain berries, seeds, corn and perhaps crayfish parts.



### Deer

Vary in size but are generally squashed spheres with a slight taper. There will generally be a small pile. Entirely vegetative and quite uniform in consistency.



### Coyote

Very similar to fox, but larger. A large fox and a small coyote may have identical scat.



### Opossum

Uneven and variable due to changing food sources. May contain hair or berries. Often in small segments. Not commonly found.



### Porcupine

Somewhat variable in shape, but usually oblong. Contain a great deal of wood pulp. Individual scat may be connected by thin strands.



### Mountain Lion (Puma, Cougar)

Chords with uniform diameter. May contain fur or feathers. Scats rarely seen since cats cover it up.



### Rat

Dark brown or black, even consistency. Small, oval pellets.