

Track Detective

Lesson 7.6 · Omnivores & Weirdos
Outdoor Mission



Kitimu says...

Some mammals are seriously weird — honey badgers rip open beehives, porcupines chew on bones, aardvarks dig holes the size of bathtubs! Hunt for evidence of these strange behaviours near you and build a Weird Mammal Evidence Board. Let's go, Cub!



WHAT YOU NEED



Garden or nature area



Cardboard / poster



Tape or glue



Collecting bags



Notebook & pencil



Camera or phone



YOUR MISSION

- Learn the signs.** Know what to look for: holes dug in the ground (honey badger, aardvark), bark stripped from trees (porcupine), knocked-over bins (baboons, monkeys), gnawed bones and scratch marks (civet, cat).
- Search high and low.** Walk slowly. Check tree trunks for scratches and stripped bark, wall-bases for digging, and fences for fur. Peek under hedges and near bins for nighttime visitors.
- Photograph or collect.** For each clue, take a photo or (if safe and clean) collect a small sample — a tuft of fur, a chewed stick, a piece of bark. Can't take it? Draw it and note where you found it.
- Identify the culprit.** Work out who left each clue. How high is the damage? How big are the tooth or scratch marks? Neat digging (mongoose) or messy chaos (honey badger)? Write your best guess.
- Build your Evidence Board.** Stick your photos, drawings and finds onto your poster. Label each: what it is, where you found it, and your suspect. Title it: "Weird Mammal Evidence Board — [Your Name]".

DID YOU KNOW?

Honey badgers are the 'world's most fearless animal' — they'll face lions and break into anything for honey. Messy, chaotic digging? A honey badger may have visited!

DETECTIVE FACT

Porcupines gnaw bones and horns for calcium. Find a bone with small gnaw marks? A porcupine was almost certainly the culprit.

My top suspects & what gave them away:



Photograph your Weird Mammal Evidence Board and share it in the Junior Rangers WhatsApp group!