READ THE TRACKWAY

OBSERVE. MEASURE. COMPARE.

FOSSIL TYPE
Trace fossil

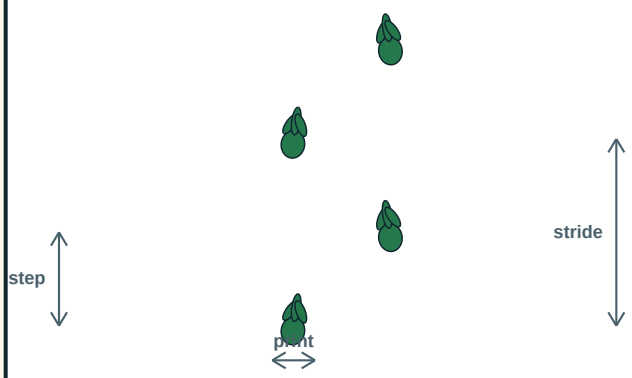
USEFUL CLUES
Size and spacing

IMPORTANT LIMIT
Not an exact species

DETECTIVE QUESTION

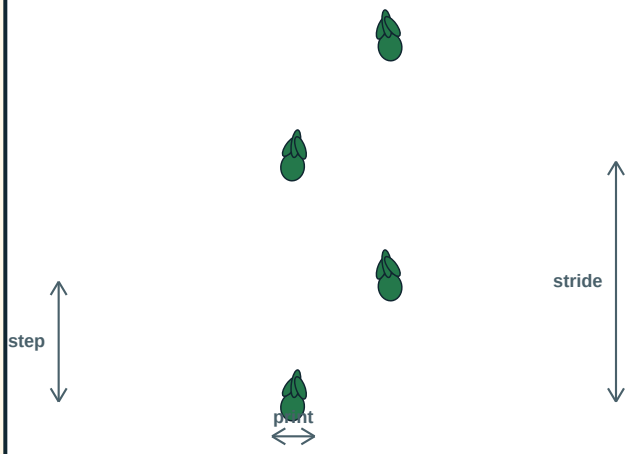
Which model trackway suggests longer steps, and what measurement supports your answer?

TRACKWAY A



Measure from the center of each print.

TRACKWAY B



The model footprints are the same size.

MY TRACKWAY MEASUREMENTS

Footprint length: heel to longest toe | Step: one foot to the opposite foot | Stride: same foot to same foot

Trackway A step: _____ **cm**

Trackway A stride: _____ **cm**

Trackway B step: _____ **cm**

Trackway B stride: _____ **cm**

One pattern I notice: _____

MAKE AN EVIDENCE CLAIM

CLAIM. EVIDENCE. LIMITS.

REMEMBER Tracks can preserve clues about movement and size, but a model cannot prove an exact species or exact speed.

1 CHOOSE A TRACKWAY

Which trackway suggests longer steps? State your answer clearly.

2 USE A MEASUREMENT

Write one step or stride measurement that supports your claim.

3 ADD AN OBSERVATION

Name one pattern you noticed in the footprint size, direction or spacing.

4 NAME A LIMIT

What can these model tracks not prove about the dinosaur that made them?

5 DESIGN YOUR OWN MODEL TRACKWAY

Draw at least four prints. Label one step and one stride. Then explain what your spacing is meant to show.

My trackway is meant to show:

DETECTIVE CHECK: MY CLAIM NAMES A TRACKWAY, A MEASUREMENT AND ONE LIMIT.