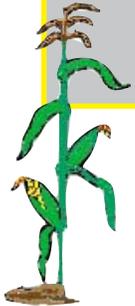


# GPN Reading Rainbow Episode



## Raccoons And Ripe Corn/ Deer At The Brook/ Come Out, Muskrats



Jim Arnosky's beautifully illustrated books provide the inspiration for LeVar to learn about wildlife watching. They team up for a day of exploration and playing detective. Viewers learn that teeth marks on twigs are a good sign that beavers are nearby. If they look closely on tree trunks, they might see tiny porcupine claw marks. Viewers will get a close look at raccoon paw prints and learn how to tell if they were drinking from the brook or just passing by.



**Here are several activities you and your child can do together after watching this episode.**

### How Much Does It Weigh?

A raccoon is considered to be a medium-sized animal. An average raccoon weighs about 25 pounds. Get out the family scale and find five things— people or pets —that weigh less, and five that weigh more than a raccoon.



### Animal Tales

Ask your child what makes the raccoon such a unique animal. The answer will probably be the "mask" of dark fur across the raccoon's face. Its striped tail is quite neat, too! The Native American word for raccoon is "arakunem (ah-rah-KOO-nem). The name eventually was shortened to "raccoon." Have your child make up a tale telling how the arakunem or raccoon got its mask and striped tail. You may enjoy reading together other animal legends that explain animal characteristics.

### Raccoon Paw-Print Socks

Have you ever examined animal prints that have been left in mud or snow? Can you identify the animal visitor by the shape of its print? Look at these prints of the front and rear paw of a raccoon. Do you notice anything special about them?



Front Paw



Hind Paw

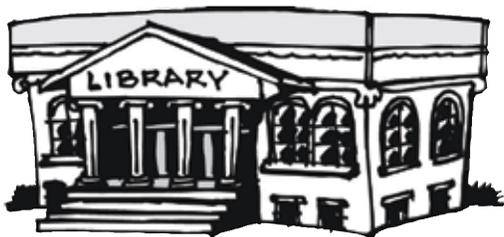
You're right! The raccoon has the same number of toes as you do! Use raccoon paw prints to make a special pair of socks.

You will need:

- newspaper
- drawing paper and soft-lead pencil
- scissors
- pair of clean, light-colored socks
- cardboard
- tape or straight pins
- fabric paint and brush

1. Cover a table with newspapers.
2. Look at the raccoon prints above. Practice drawing the front and rear paw print on paper.
3. Cut out the shape of each print.
4. Stretch each sock over a cardboard strip so the bottom of the sock is flat.
5. Tape or pin a paw print pattern to each sock. Trace around the pattern with pencil.
6. Fill in each print with fabric paint. Use one color or a variety of colors. Add a dot above each toe to represent the claws.
7. Remove the cardboard when the paint is dry. Now you have yourself a real pair of socks or slippers.

## Visit Your Community Library



Here are some books you can check out on your next trip to the library

- ◆ **Bird Watch** by Jane Yolen
- ◆ **My First Nature Book** by Angela Wilkes
- ◆ **Tree Trunk Traffic** by Bianca Lavies