

Notes on Foot Print and Bike Tracks

One of the easiest ways of obtaining shoe prints and shoe soles is to have the students either step in a box of flour and then step on a piece of black construction paper, or ink the bottom of the shoe and then step on a piece of white paper. It is really amazing, that in a class of 30 or so students, that it is unlikely that any two students will have the same shoe pattern.

Getting pictures of different bicycle tire patterns is fairly easy. A trip, with a camera to a bike store, or if you have students who bike to school, a quick trip outside the school door should get you a wide assortment. Pictures of the bike tracks are much more difficult to obtain. If you can run the bike through a sandy area or plain dirt, a good print can be obtained. Lighting is everything when trying to get a good photograph of the print. A digital camera really helps the process, if you are going to put the print on the computer to facilitate duplication. Unlike fingerprints, regular photographs do not photocopy as well as photos that are first put on the computer.

To properly light a bike track to obtain a good picture for use in comparisons, the light should be aimed at one extreme end of the track almost parallel to the track. The camera should be at right angles to the track.

