Explore Dall Sheep

Explore a fascinating Alaska mountain animal with three hands-on crafts!

Materials Needed: Paper plate, brown paper strips, track template and coloring sheet (or draw your own), cardstock, blank paper, cotton ball, tape, crayons, scissors, glue.

Make a Horn Headband: Cut two horn shapes from the ribbed side of the paper plate. Curl at the tips. Attach a long paper strip to fit around the top of your head. Tape the horns to the paper band. Pretend you are a Dall sheep climbing a mountain!





Create a Track Rubbing: Print or draw the track template on cardstock. Cut out the track shapes. Lay the two track pieces side by side (see picture). Place a blank piece of paper on top of the tracks and rub a peeled crayon over the tracks to make them appear!

Color a Dall sheep. Pull the cotton ball apart and glue onto the coloring sheet for a warm coat.

Dall Sheep Are Mountain Climbers



Image: Matheus Riolfi, Wikimedia Commons.

Dall sheep are the farthest north wild sheep in the world! They live on some of the steepest mountainsides in Alaska and western Canada. Dall sheep are adapted to walking on cliffs with special rough pads, under two-toed hooves. A coat up to two inches thick keeps them warm in their cold and windy mountain habitat.

Dall sheep begin growing their horns when they are two months old. Horns are made of keratin (the same material as our fingernails) and keep growing through their lives. As they get older, the horns of rams grow into a longer curl. Horns grow faster in summer when there is lots of alpine vegetation to feed on. The growth rings on their horns can help us tell a Dall sheep's age!





UAMN Virtual Early Explorers: Mountains

Dall Sheep Track Template





