

# Tracking Your Neighborhood

DAY 3: Today we are going to look at the holes and burrows that animals make in the desert.

Living underground has many benefits for desert animals.

- In a burrow, the temperatures stay cooler in summer and warmer in winter.
- Animals can stay safe and hide from predators.
- A burrow is a good place for storing extra food, just like in a pantry.
- An underground burrow makes a safe home for mothers raising their young.

In your pursuit of animal traces you will have come across a wide variety of holes of different sizes and shapes. Since you are now an accomplished tracker of animal prints, see if you can follow some of them to the borrow of the animal that lives there. Please be careful and don't put your hands inside a burrow - remember the rattlesnake video!

Shapes and sizes of the holes can give you an idea of who made it and lives there. Here are some general hints:

- If it is very small and really round (like a penny), it probably belongs to a bee or a spider.

- When there are a many holes in the same area, all the size of a tennis ball, they could belong to squirrels or Kangaroo Rats.
- If you find a burrow entrance that looks like this:  it might belong to a tortoise.
- If you find a big hole with lots of dirt around it, it might belong to a Badger or a Gray Fox.

To help you identify the owner of the burrow, see if you can find other traces around it. Look for scat, prints, feathers, or seeds.

I hope you will have fun with your research. Let me know what you have found out, I am very curious.  
Stefanie