

Recording Footwear marks (also called shoeprints)

Method 1.

What do I need?

- (1) Olive Oil or vegetable oil
- (2) A small paint brush
- (3) Some sheets of A4 paper
- (4) Hot chocolate powder
- (5) Paper towels/cloths



WARNING - oil on the bottom of your shoes can make them slippery so be careful to clean your shoes carefully

What do I do?



Step 1 - Lightly paint the bottom of your shoe with the olive oil - don't use too much oil.

Step 2 - Put on your shoe and stand on the paper to make a single footwear mark. Try and get the footwear mark all onto one page.

Step 3 - If you can't see the mark then shake some of the hot chocolate powder on to the mark and blow away any excess powder.

Step 4 - Clean your shoe carefully to get all of the oil off the sole.

Step 5 - Make 6 footwear marks using each shoe and look at the differences between the marks.

Step 6 - Now make footwear marks using different shoes

Step 7 - Draw the patterns that you see from the different shoes.

Step 8 - Can you see where the soles of your shoes are worn or maybe damaged or cut? Mark these areas on your diagram if you can see any.

Are your footwear marks always the same? Do the marks that you see on the 6 repeats look the same or are there differences? Do different people's shoes have different wear patterns? Can you measure your footwear mark?

Method 2.

What do I need?

- (1) Poster paint (water soluble)
- (2) A small paint brush
- (3) Some sheets of A4 paper

WARNING -Be careful to clean your shoes carefully after making your footwear marks.

What do I do?



Step 1 - Lightly paint the bottom of your shoe with the paint - don't use too much paint.

Step 2 - Put on your shoe and stand on the paper to make a single footwear mark. Try and get the footwear mark all onto one page.

Step 3 - Clean your shoe carefully to get all of the paint off the sole.

Step 5 - Make 6 footwear marks using each shoe.

Step 6 - Now make footwear marks using different shoes

Step 7 - Draw the patterns that you see from the different shoes.

Step 8 - Can you see where the soles of your shoes are worn or maybe damaged or cut? Mark these areas on your diagram if you can see any.

Are your footwear marks always the same? Do the marks that you see on the 6 repeats look the same or are there differences? Do different people's shoes have different wear patterns? Can you measure your footwear mark?

You can find a longer experiment on making footwear marks at

<https://www.dundee.ac.uk/leverhulme/citizenscience/details/sole-searching.php>