



Tom Brown's Science and Art of Tracking

Tom Brown Jr. , Nancy Spence Klein (Illustrator) , Debbie Brown (Photographer)

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More popular than ever, **Tom Brown, Jr.**'s unique approach to inner growth through outer awareness has gained a wide audience, ranging from weekend campers and nature lovers, to serious survivalists and college students. **The Science and Art of Tracking** expands upon **Tom Brown's** most enduring subject: the important life lessons to be learned through tracking skills. **Tom Brown** was taught the ancient skills of survival by a Native American he called Grandfather. His most advanced lessons were those of the scouts, members of a secret society who were highly attuned to nature. The scouts refined tracking to a disciplined science and art form. With these physical skills came enhanced perception and true enlightenment. "Tracking was their doorway to the universe," **Tom Brown** writes, "where they could know all things through the tracks..." Now **Tom Brown, Jr.** shares generations of wisdom through one of the most rewarding pursuits to be found in nature. Tracking lets us unlock the secrets of each animal we follow, and in turn, to become more aware of our own place in nature and the world. It is a journey of discovery that engages the senses, awakens the spirit, and enlightens the soul.

Tom Brown's Science and Art of Tracking Details

Date : Published February 1st 1999 by Berkley

ISBN : 9780425157725

Author : Tom Brown Jr. , Nancy Spence Klein (Illustrator) , Debbie Brown (Photographer)

Format : Paperback 240 pages

Genre : Nature, Outdoors, Environment, Adventure, Survival, Nonfiction

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From Reader Review Tom Brown's Science and Art of Tracking for online ebook

Aaron says

This book has been banged up, torn, and soaked in rain as I've drug it just about everywhere. This is the most informative and detailed tracking guide I've ever seen.

Siraniko says

It's a terrific book for people who want to learn about tracking. However, the knowledge you gain is a bit specialized, and you do have to take time to practice the skills being taught. I live in the urban jungle, so for my personal needs, it was useless. But hats off to Brown for sharing his irreplaceable knowledge.

Fredrick Danysh says

A guide on tracking animals in the wild state. It is full of useful tips and has several illustrations.

John says

Most of this book is a practical guide meant to be used with a home-built practice sandbox. I haven't used it for that, but it looks like it could be a good start. The author's claims about what can be tracked seem unbelievable, but he stresses that you can learn it if you put in the "dirt time." He says that the first few dozen hours of dirt time will make a huge difference, but obsessive devotion to practice is required, for example, to track ants across gravel, detect from tracks the animal's or person's emotional state, detect how much food was in the animal's or person's stomach, see that the animal or person merely thought about a change in movement but didn't actually turn (the specific change that was considered is also detected), and tracking in darkness.

Adam Uraynar says

Pedagogy

Feynman learning technique - mastering each before starting to learn another; not teach anything new unless mastering the old.

p 3 Questions are not answered in a straightforward way but rather a direction is pointed out, or another question is asked.

p 4 Inside each track they saw an infinite miniature landscape.

p 16 When we began to observe the world with that kind of questioning mind, all of [...] presented an

exciting mystery...questioning awareness into everyday thinking.

Tracking

p 28 dirt time + dogged determination

p 46 Ideal tracking box is 8'X4'X10" with 8" of sand.

Signs

p 17 'Trials with no berm along the sides more apt to originally be a deer trail--especially if it winds through and interacts with the landscape.'

Islands in an ocean. A very good spot is the cover at the edge of trees, open to a field. Different vegetation in the field, yet still cover.

"What happened here?"

"What is this telling me?"

Pressure Releases

p 37 Pressure releases, balance--every action--has to be compensated for (i.e., Newton's 3rd Law).

p 45 A galloping bear will leave the same pressure release as a galloping mouse. The best place to start learning pressure releases is damp sand *zero earth* or *zero soil*.

p 166 Age - lateral ridge (where the floor and the wall meet) helps determine age--but this needs to be experienced... Instead estimate by 72, 48, 24 hours, then fresh:
<http://www.wildwoodtracking.com/aging...>

p 95 The exercise getting down on your head & knees, moving your head, is the same for swimming. Your body follows the movement of your head, usually which follows where you're looking.

p 67 Progression of pressure: explosion in slow motion starts with a cliff, moves to a ridge, then a peak, crest, crest-crumble, into a cave, cave-in, then rising up from the ground comes a plate, plate-fissure, plate-crumble, then finally the ensuing explosion.

1. cliff
2. ridge
3. peak
4. crest
- 5.
6. cave
- 7.
8. plate
- 9.
- 10.
11. explosion

p 68 These are (major) primaries. Secondaries are where there are separate but linked motions. Example of a secondary pressure release, stops, turns around in tracks, looks down at ground--dropped something.

p 70 Distortions (phony pressure releases) from external forces

- > weather imposed
- > self-imposed ~ topple over or dragged on the way out
- > landscape-imposed ~ topography or debris
- > mechanical-imposed ~ human shoe extruded odd

p 168 Find the overall movement of the animal by pushing your thumb near the existing track to the exact depth, then duplicate the pressure releases with a bending, pushing off or twisting of your hand. This helps not confuse distortions in different soil personalities.

p 157 Grip the soil firmly in your hand, compressing it together as hard as you can. Then release your grip and watch how the soil in your hand reacts. Does it fall apart easily, fissure or crumble, or holds well--then it has a low, medium, or high adhesive quality. Soil with high adhesive quality maintain in formation longer.

p 172 reading tracks on hard surfaces, keep the between you and the source of light. These tracks are called dust and grit compressions.

p 174 You will need a severe viewing angle, 'sideheading' (by putting the side of your face directly onto the ground, closing the higher eye). Depressions in snow are usually visible after a new snow.

p 177 night tracking may be better - white light works well on clear ground, gravel, sand; red light for forest floors; yellow light for grasslands and lawns; blue light for snow and ice. If you don't have that color, wrap that color in plastic over, and rubber band it over the flashlight.

Vocab

runs - less than a trail

pushdowns - escape route

lays - usually used only once or twice. Used for rest, chewing cud, etc. Can be recognized by broken and crushed vegetation

<https://outdooraction.princeton.edu/n...>

<https://outdooraction.princeton.edu/n...>

Steven West says

This book spent several chapters rhapsodizing about vast interconnections of the world right outside your front door. It recommends one access those spiritual marvels by stomping through a variously packed sandbox in a basement before and after eating or using a toilet, and fixating on results.

Interesting premise, a bit sketch on transmitting the magic.

D. Logan says

Attended the standard course he has before I bought this book, so was able to learn much of it firsthand, but the book has served as an amazing reference tool. I don't think I know anyone quite as impressive as this man in all things wilderness. If I could be even half as good as he is, I would. Definately one of the best books he has put out to date in terms of it's practical value on the topic at hand.

Ray says

This book is an amazing read even if you are not intending to become a tracker. The "indegenous" method of

learning described herein and the attention to detail necessary for a high level of mastery allow tacking to become a metaphor for any of life's higher pursuits.
