

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Foundations

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Earth Science

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## Lab Activity: Observation and Inference

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### INTRODUCTION:

Science is knowledge, observing, inferring, experimenting, gathering data and questioning. These ideas help us determine if something is true and build upon our scientific knowledge. To accomplish this we make observations.

An observation is the act of taking notice and gathering data using your senses. It is something you witness happening with your senses and should be a fact if stated properly. An inference is a judgment based on reasoning from evidence or past experiences. Inferences are, more often than not, used when writing your conclusions.

### OBJECTIVE:

You will gain an understanding what scientific knowledge is based on observations and inferences.

### VOCABULARY:

Observation

Inference

Fossil

Classification

Prediction

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## PROCEDURE:

Using the “Fossilized Dinosaur Footprints” on the adjacent page, write down five different observations and five different inferences on the blanks below.

## OBSERVATIONS:

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## INFERENCES:

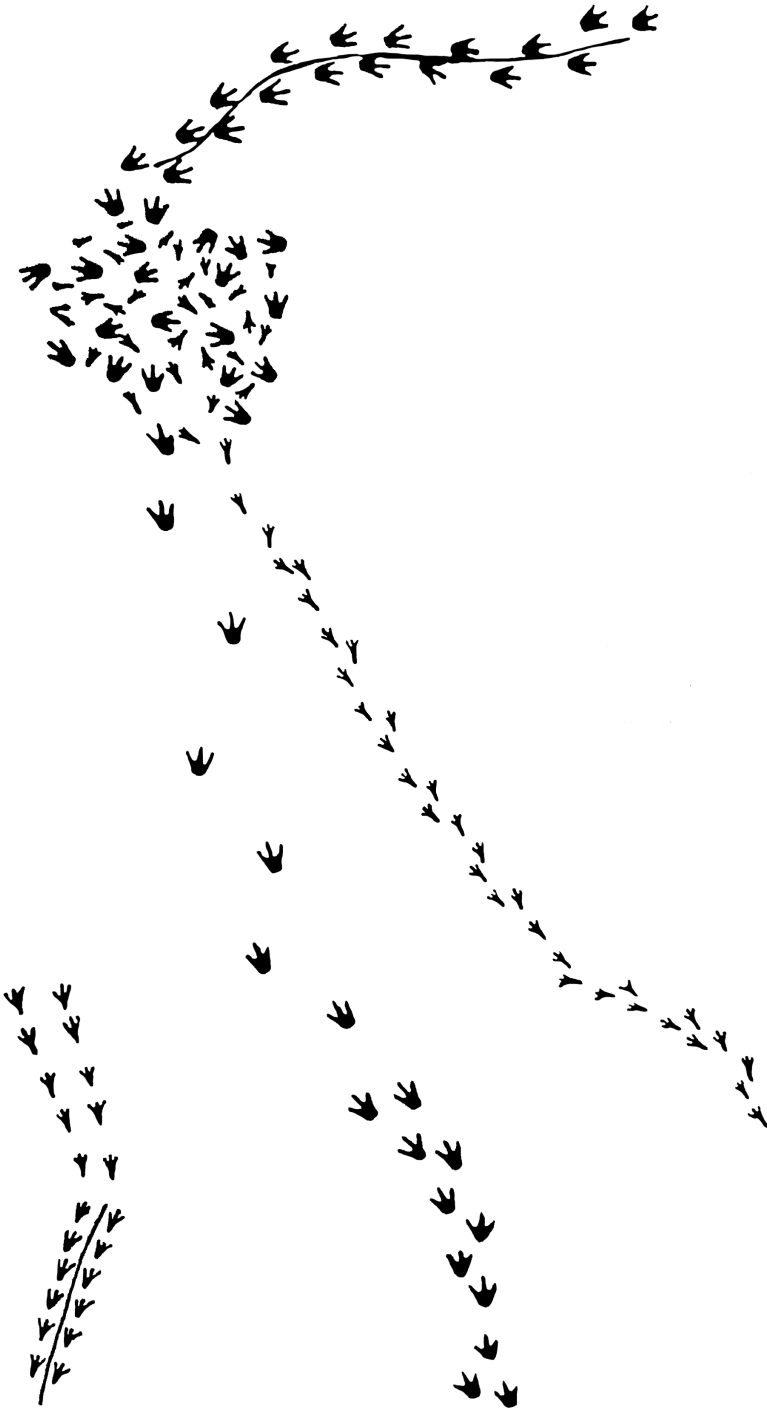
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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## FOSSILIZED DINOSAUR FOOTPRINTS



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How many different dinosaurs footprints can be seen in the sedimentary bedrock?
2. Are the amount of dinosaur footprints an observation or an inference?
3. What do humans use to make observations?
4. Why do scientists observe phenomena?
5. List one qualitative observation and one quantitative observation.

**CONCLUSION:** Infer what happened from the fossilized dinosaur footprints [be creative]?