

Chapter 12**SKILL ASSESSMENT****● Fossil Tracks**

Pretend you are a geologist working on a site where fossil impressions of footprints have been found. The prints appear in a rock that is known to be 100 million years old. The sketch below shows the footprints. There appear to be several creatures. The sketch is drawn to scale and there are some notes indicating direction.

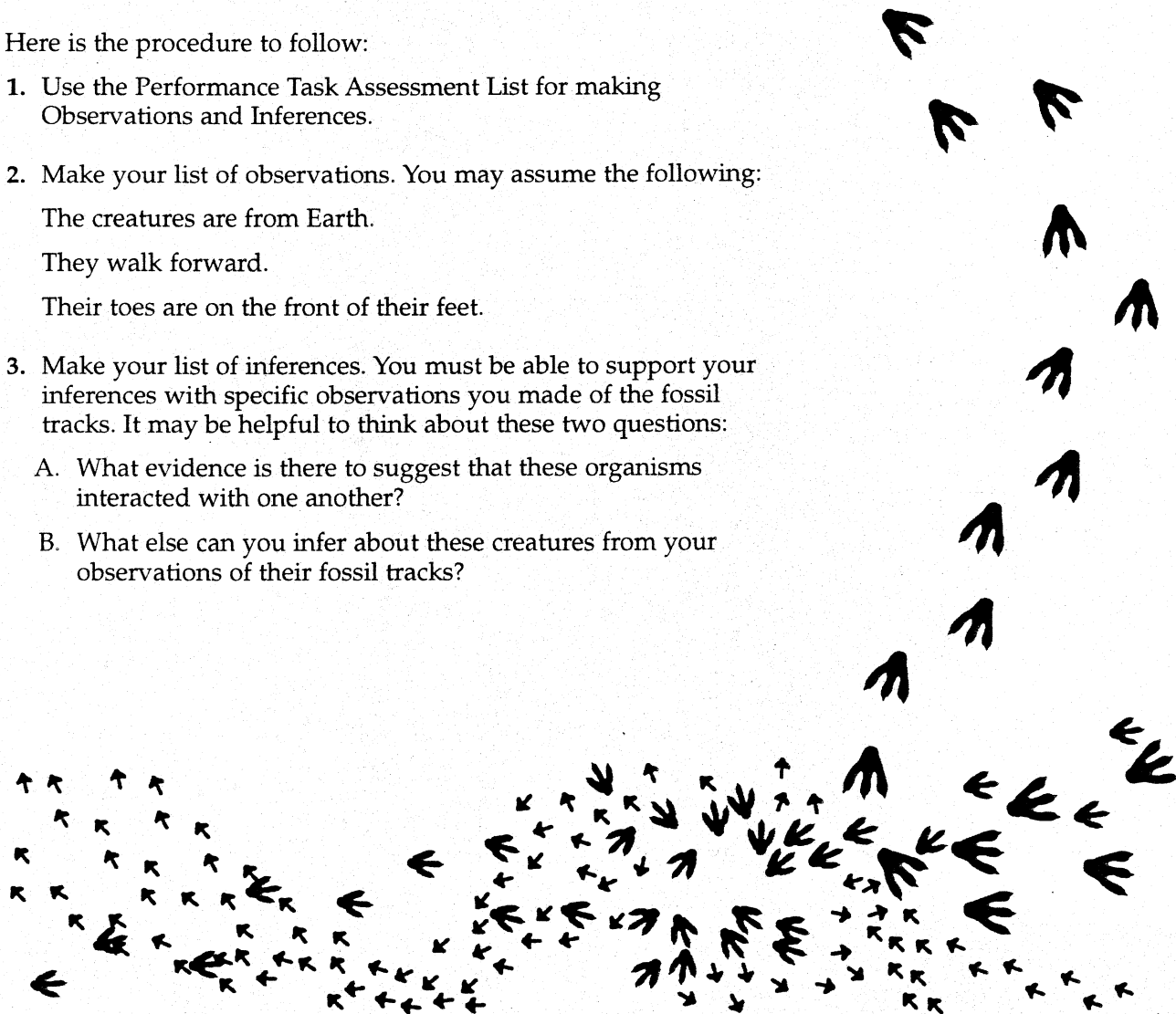
Your task is to study the sketch and record your observations. After you have recorded your observations, make a list of inferences about what you think the tracks show. Pretend that you are writing your lists to be read by scientists.

Materials

All you need is the sketch of the footprints that appears below.

Here is the procedure to follow:

1. Use the Performance Task Assessment List for making Observations and Inferences.
2. Make your list of observations. You may assume the following:
 - The creatures are from Earth.
 - They walk forward.
 - Their toes are on the front of their feet.
3. Make your list of inferences. You must be able to support your inferences with specific observations you made of the fossil tracks. It may be helpful to think about these two questions:
 - A. What evidence is there to suggest that these organisms interacted with one another?
 - B. What else can you infer about these creatures from your observations of their fossil tracks?

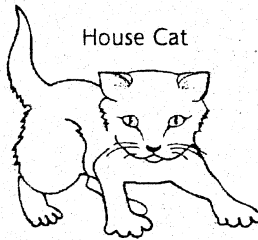
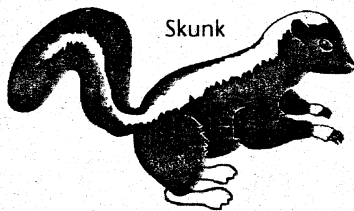
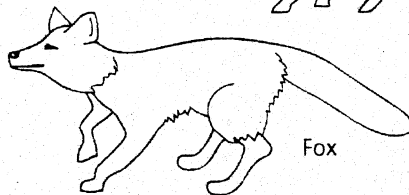
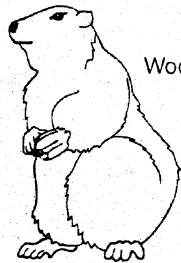
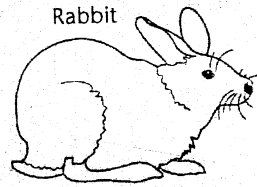
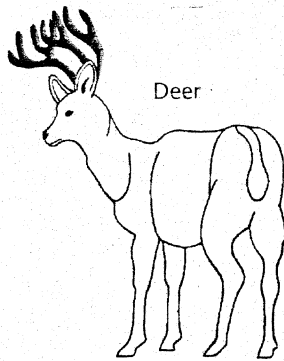
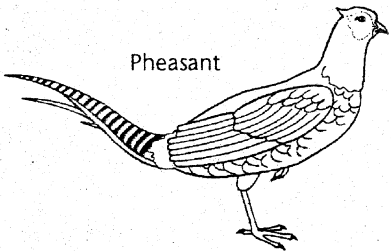


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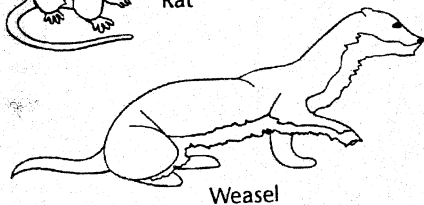
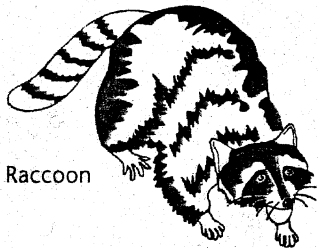
INTEGRATION

Keep on Trackin'!

Animal tracks can often be seen in the mud near watering holes. In the past, some of these tracks were fossilized when the mud turned into sedimentary rock. Fossilized tracks have allowed scientists to learn much about dinosaurs and other extinct animals. Characteristics that scientists can learn about by studying tracks include size, weight, skin texture, physical disabilities, and speed. Scientists sometimes make plaster casts of these tracks they discover to take to their labs for study.



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