

# Observation & Inference



modified by Liz LaRosa [www.middleschoolscience.com](http://www.middleschoolscience.com) 2009, from original posted at:  
[www.science-class.net/PowerPoints/Observation Inference 8th.ppt](http://www.science-class.net/PowerPoints/Observation%20Inference%208th.ppt)

# Observations

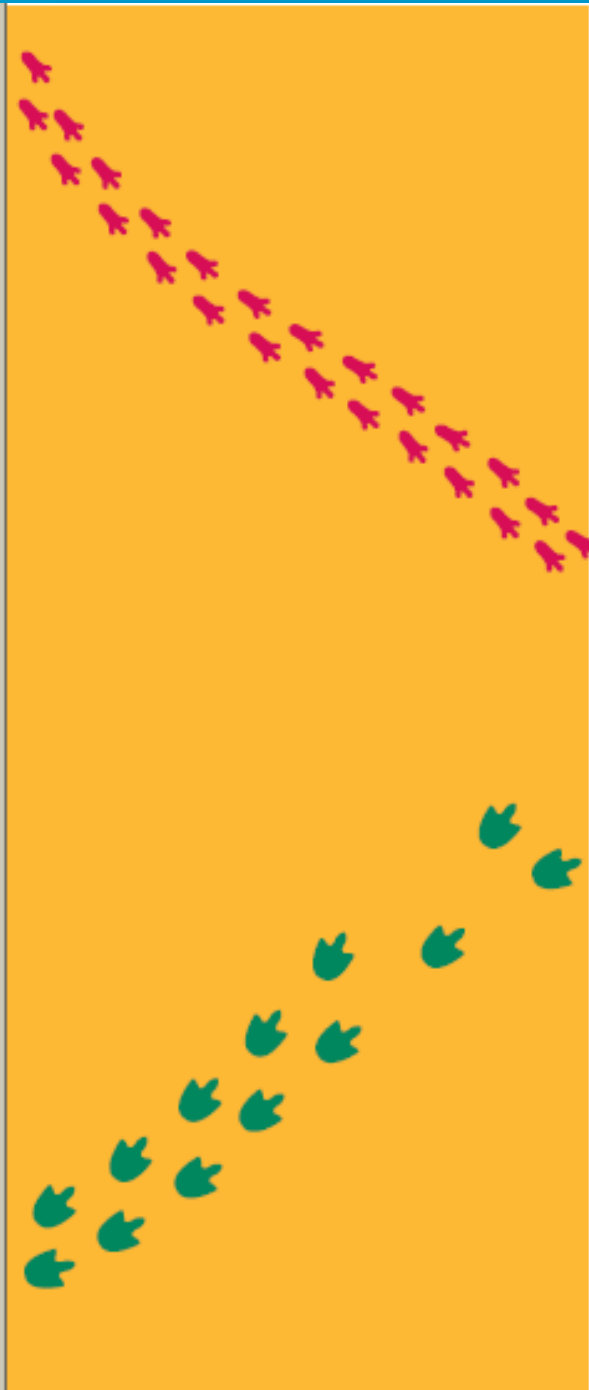
- Any information collected with the senses.
  - **Quantitative** – measureable or countable
    - » 3 meters long
    - » 4 marbles
    - » 50 kilograms
    - » 35 degrees Celsius
  - **Qualitative** – describable, not measureable
    - » red flowers
    - » smells like fresh baked cookies
    - » Tastes bitter
- The skill of describing scientific events

# Inference

- Conclusions or deductions based on observations.
- The process of drawing a conclusion from given evidence.

## Practice:

- **Observations:**
  - I hear people screaming
  - I smell cotton candy, popcorn, and hamburgers
  - I see a lot of people
- Inference = ?



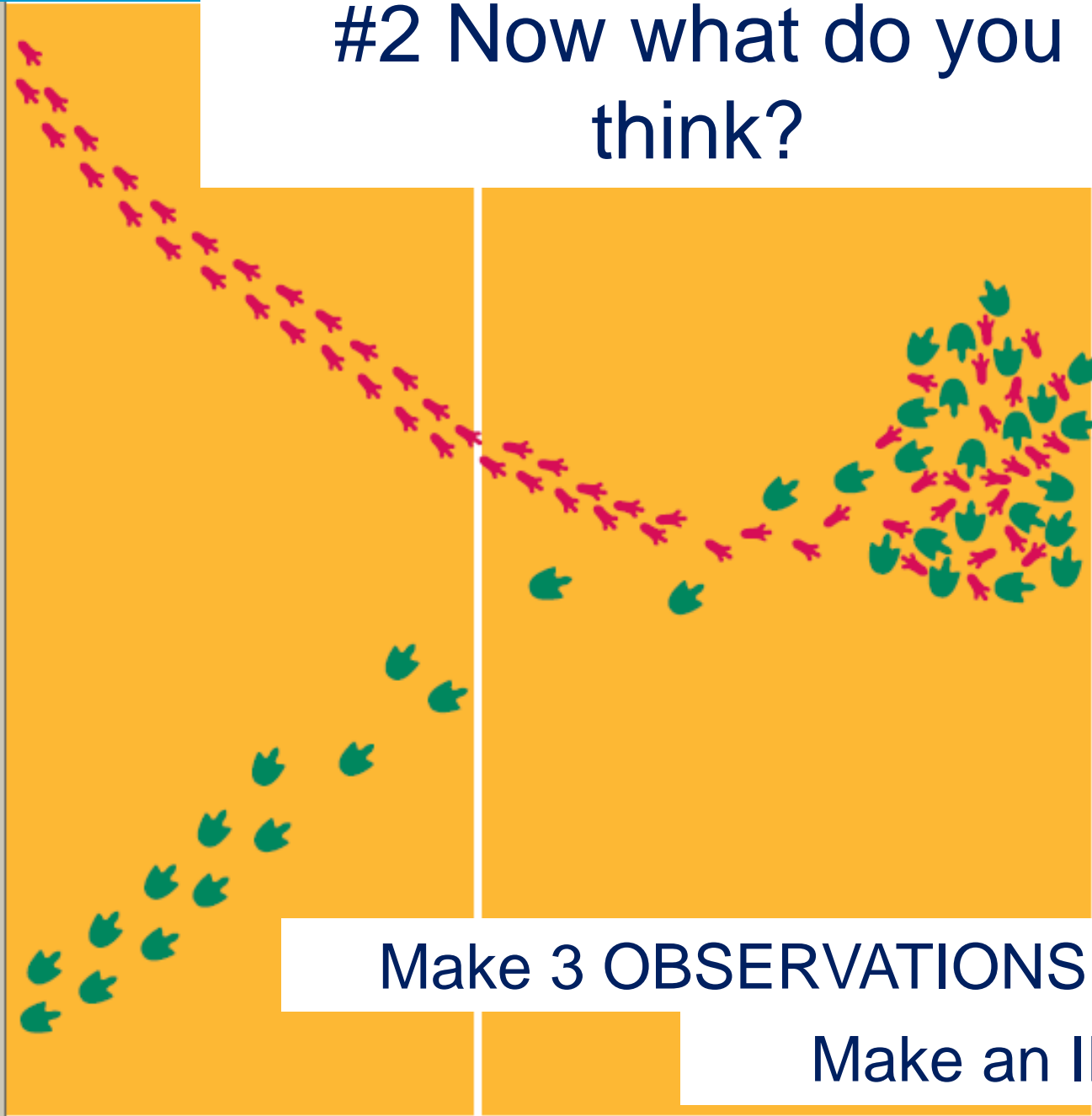
#1

Look at these two sets of animal tracks.

List 3 OBSERVATIONS

Make an INFERENCE

#2 Now what do you think?



Make 3 OBSERVATIONS

Make an INFERENCE

#3 Now what do you think?



Make 3 OBSERVATIONS

Make an INFERENCE

# Activity Page

[www.middleschoolscience.com/footprints-isn.pdf](http://www.middleschoolscience.com/footprints-isn.pdf)

In your science notebook, write a conclusion .

Source of graphic:

<http://bob.nap.edu/html/evolution98/evol6-e.html>