Name: _____

Date: _____

Interpreting Events from Fossil Evidence

Purpose:

Materials:

Safety:

Procedure: Refer to Lab Duotang

Observations

Part A: Use Figure 1 to answer questions 1 through 6.

1. How can you tell in which direction the animals are walking?

2. How do footprints differ when an animal walks from when it runs?

3. Did any of the animals change speed? When?

4. How many different types of animals are represented?

5. How did the animals interact with each other?

6. How would footprints be formed and preserved?

Part B: Use Figure 2 to answer questions 1 through 3.

1. Did any of the animals change speed? When?

2. How many different types of animals are represented?

3. How did the animals interact with one another?

Discussion Questions:

Part A: Use Figure 1 to answer questions 1 through 4.

1. In what kind of environment did this all take place?

2. If all the footprints were made within minutes of one another, which way was the wind blowing? Explain your answer.

3. What might the lines between the footprints of two of the organisms represent?

4. Write a paragraph interpreting the events in Figure 1. Support your interpretations with evidence from the diagram.

Part B: Use Figure 2 to answer questions 5 through 7.

5. Is it possible that the animals who made the footprints represented in the diagram never actually met each other at the same time? Explain your answer.

6. What might depth of a footprint tell an interpreter?

7. Write a paragraph interpreting the events in Figure 2. Support your interpretations with evidence from the diagram.

8. In what type of rock would you be most likely to find fossils? Explain your answer.

9. Would you be likely to find the fossil remains of a jellyfish or a worm? Explain your answer.

10. The exposed rock layers of the Grand Canyon are rich with fossil specimens. What does the presence of fossil coral, sponges, shellfish and trilobites indicate about the past climate of the Grand Canyon area?

11. Scientists have found fossils of the same kind of organism on different continents. How might this have occurred?