Name Period Date

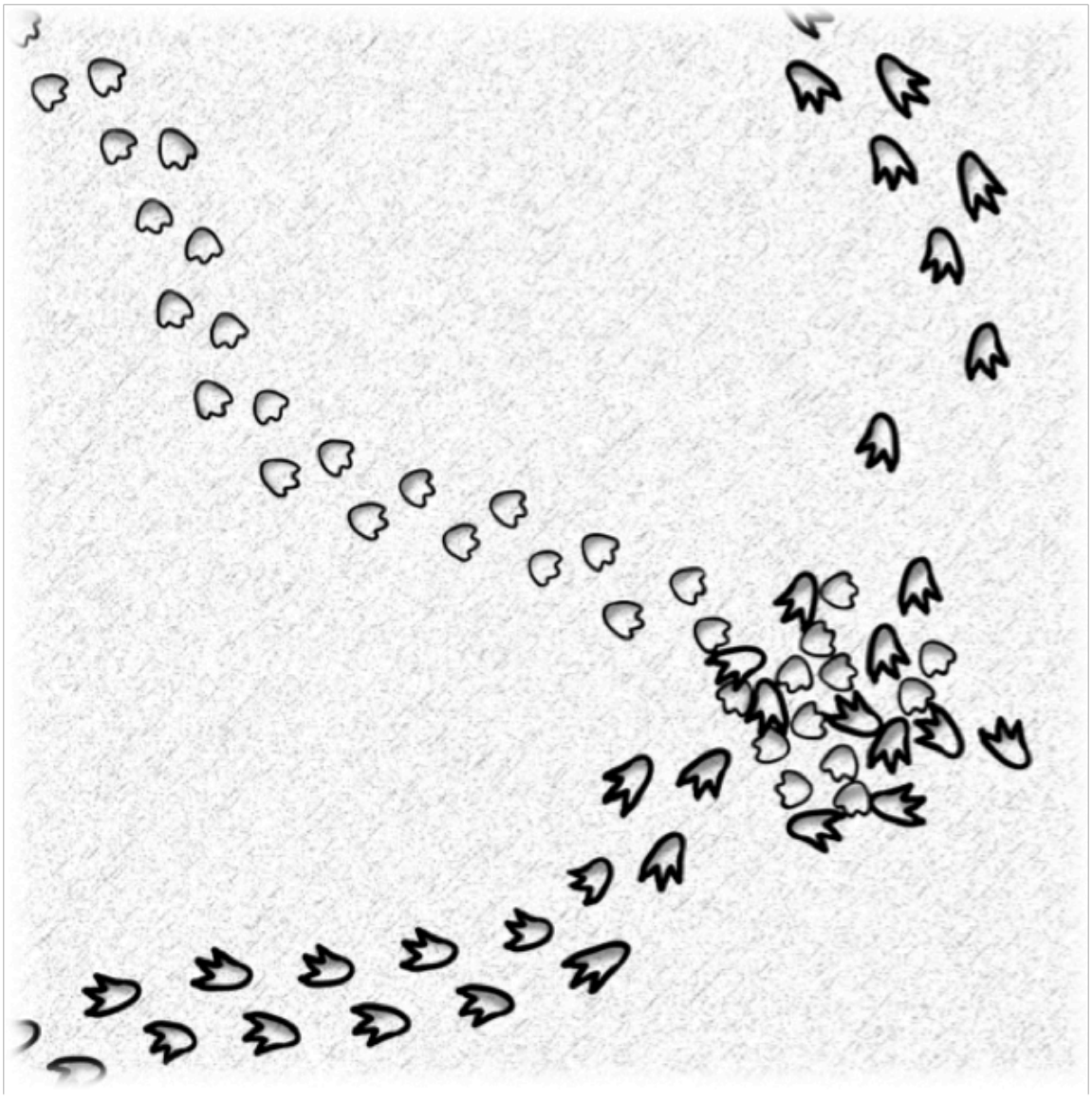
Unit 5 | Handout _____

Traces of Tracks

Purpose: To discover what can be learned from natural evidence.

Background: Natural evidence is any naturally occurring geologic artifact that helps scientists learn about the past. These include fossils, rock layers, ice cores, and tree rings.

Instructions: Below is a drawing of footprints of two animals. On the back of this sheet, make as many observations as you can (qualitative and quantitative). Then, for each one, attempt to explain the observation (your inference). Remember to keep your inferences simple.



My observation	Explanation for observation

Reflecting Questions.

1. How could you determine if the animal was running or walking?

2. How could you determine which animal is larger? How about which is heavier?

3. How could you determine if the animal is a carnivore? Herbivore?

4. Look at your answer to the first part of number 3. Can you think of a time where an animal's footprint might make it look like a carnivore, but it's actually a herbivore? Think of an animal that is alive today to help you answer this question.