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OBSERVATION

When you make an **observation**, you are noticing something using your senses of seeing, touching, hearing, tasting and smelling. An **inference** is what is deduced from the information you have observed. For example:

- 'The dog is barking' is an observation.
- 'You must hear someone coming' is an inference.

1. For each of the following statements, write whether it is an observation or inference.

- (a) The liquid in the test tube is green. _____
- (b) There must be a house on fire — I can see the smoke. _____
- (c) The rock feels rough. _____
- (d) Sugar tastes sweet. _____
- (e) I hear leaves rustle — it must be windy. _____

2. The picture at right shows tracks found on a beach.

- (a) Using your knowledge of inferences and your skills of observation, infer what kinds of organisms have made these tracks.

- (b) Infer the order in which the tracks were made, from oldest to most recent. _____

- (c) What observations did you use for these inferences?

