



Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period/Class \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Schoolyard Geology – Page 1 Student's Edition

What can we infer about the history of a place (schoolyard) by making observations in the field?

1. Take a moment to explore the setting and make observations.
2. Illustrate the setting on a separate sheet of paper.
3. Try to discover the history of your schoolyard by making observations and inferences in the field. Choose three to five natural or human-designed features that may be clues for major events that took place in the schoolyard's past. Record your thoughts in the chart below.

<b>Feature/Object</b>	<b>Age (description or number)</b>	<b>Observations (what you see, smell, feel, etc.)</b>	<b>Inferences (what might your observations tell you about the history of the schoolyard)</b>	<b>Questions I Have</b>

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**Student’s Edition**

<b>Feature/Object</b>	<b>Age (description or number)</b>	<b>Observations (what you see, smell, feel, etc.)</b>	<b>Inferences (what might your observations tell you about the history of the schoolyard)</b>	<b>Questions I Have</b>

- Using your observations of the setting and features, can you infer major events in the history of the schoolyard? What was the setting like 50 years ago? 150 years ago?
- In your chart, circle the features that were relatively dated. Put an “X” next to the features that were numerically (absolutely) dated.



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Note: You will be using this timeline throughout the next few lessons.

#### **Timeline of Schoolyard History**

1. Create a timeline of your schoolyard below.

- Draw a vertical line below or on a separate sheet of paper. Title it “Schoolyard Timeline.”
- The top of the timeline represents present time. Decide what the bottom of your schoolyard represents (development of schoolyard site, construction of school, existence of ecosystem/site before school) and label it. Record the date or guess at the age of that time.
- Based on your observations and inferences in the schoolyard, add major events and/or features in the schoolyard’s history in chronological order on the timeline. *Remember oldest events are closer to the bottom. Recent events are closest to the top.*