

**For the Geosciences:**

**For all of the following questions:**

- How do you know? (What evidence is there?)
- What does it tell you about past environments?
- What does it imply about the future?

**Describe the shape of the land.**

- Are there mountains, valleys, or hills?
- What are the valley shapes?
- What can form valleys?
- What can cause mountains or hills to form?
- Are the mountains or hills young or old?
- What role do tectonics play in shaping the site?

**What effects has water had on the landscape?**

- Is water depositing material, eroding material, or both?
- Is the action of water primarily chemical, primarily physical, or both chemical and physical?

**What effect has the climate had on the landscape?**

- Was the past climate different?
- What factors may have been affected or caused by climate?
- How has fire played a role in shaping the environment?

**What does the arrangement of the rocks indicate about past conditions?**

- Do the rocks seem to form a sequence?
- Where would you find the oldest rocks? Youngest rocks?
- Does the rock record include evidence of ancient disturbances? If yes, describe.
- Are there different kinds of rocks at different outcrops?

**What types of rock are there and what do they indicate about past conditions?**

*Sediments & Sedimentary Rocks*

- Is it clastic or organic /chemical?
- If clastic, what is the grain size?
- If organic, what minerals is it made out of?
- Are there fossils?

*Metamorphic*

- Is it foliated or non-foliated?
- What was the parent rock?

*Igneous*

- Did the rock form above or below ground?
- Is it felsic or mafic?

**What effects has life, including human life, had on the landscape?**

- How have plants shaped the landscape?
- How have animals generally, and humans in particular, changed the landscape?
- On what scale?

