

Name _____

Date _____ Per. _____

LAETOLI TRACKWAY PUZZLE

On a separate sheet, you will find a portion of the Laetoli trackway (with a scale) in which the footprint depths and contours are detailed at 1 mm intervals. Of particular interest are two of the large tracks (G.2/3-24 and G.2/3-25). Study these tracks carefully, and answer the following questions.

1. In what major way are those larger tracks different from the smaller tracks above them (G.1-33 and G.1-34), other than size?
2. What does that difference suggest about the number of people who made the lower set of tracks?
3. If two individuals made the larger tracks, which set was made first: larger, or smaller? _____
4. Why do you say that?
5. What was the size (height) of the smaller individual (compared with the height of the individual who made the small tracks in the upper trail)? Smaller_____ Same size_____ Larger_____
6. Were these tracks all made at the same time? _____ Why do you say that?
7. If they were all made at the same time, describe a likely scenario, knowing that the tracks were made in a damp layer of freshly fallen volcanic ash (now hardened into tuff):
 - a. How close was the G.1 individual to the G.2/3 individuals? Were their arms swinging, or did one individual have his/her arm around the shoulder of the other, or did they have their arms around each other's waist? (Walk alongside a partner on a dirt path or damp sand, and note how close your footprints are in those 3 different positions, Be sure to account for size differences.)
 - b. Were the tracks traveling uphill, or downhill, or on a perfectly flat area (assuming this feature hasn't changed over time)? Evidence? (see enlarged portions: G.1-35 + G.2/3-26 and G.1-33 + G.2/3-24)
 - c. Was the person making the left hand path walking a little above, below, or exactly at the same level as the other person(s)? Evidence? (see enlarged portions: G.1-35 + G.2/3-26 and G.1-33 + G.2/3-24)
 - d. What sex were they? Clues?
 - e. Who were these people? Evidence?
 - f. How were they related? Clues?