Shape, arrow

Description automatically generated

BEDROCK

Track a Glacier Activity

Geologists can track the path of ancient glaciers by observing the landscape. As glaciers move, they churn up the surface and leave evidence of their existence. Two pieces of evidence are glacier striations and erratics. Glacier striations are when glaciers scour the ground and leave parallel markings. Although they tell us a glacier’s orientation, it does NOT tell us which way it was going (for instance, a southward-trending groove only tells us the glacier was going north OR south). Erratics are boulders picked up by glaciers and dropped elsewhere. We can determine a glacier’s path by following the erratics from their original bedrock.

Observe the diagram and complete the following prompts.

1. Where are the erratics found relative to their original bedrock?
2. Which direction are the bottom-right striations facing?
3. Overall, what was the general path the glacier took? What’s your evidence?
4. Draw an outline what the glacier may have looked like at its height. Draw dashed lines for areas you are unsure of.
5. Do you think your outline best represents the glacier’s appearance? What could help us fill in the gaps?

TEACHER COPY

Shape, arrow

Description automatically generated

BEDROCK

Track a Glacier Activity

Geologists can track the path of ancient glaciers by observing the landscape. As glaciers move, they churn up the landscape and leave evidence of their existence. Two pieces of evidence are glacier striations and erratics. Glacier striations are when glaciers scour the ground and leave parallel markings. Although they tell us a glacier’s orientation, it does NOT tell us which way it was going (for instance, a groove going north to south tells us the glacier was going north OR south). Erratics are boulders picked up by glaciers and dropped elsewhere. We can determine a glacier’s path by following the erratics from their original bedrock.

Observe the diagram and complete the following prompts.

1. Where are the erratics found relative to their original bedrock?

To the southeast

1. Which direction are the bottom-right striations facing?

From NW-SE or SE-NW

1. Overall, what was the general path the glacier took? What’s your evidence?

The glacier moved southward before slowly moving to the southeast. The glacier striations point to the path. The erratics show it went southward because they were picked up from their original bedrock to the north.

1. Draw an outline what the glacier may have looked like at its height. Draw dashed lines for areas you are unsure of.
2. Do you think your outline best represents the glacier’s appearance? What could help us fill in the gaps?

The north section is unclear as we only have two glacial groove sites. If we find more sites that can clear it up. Or maybe we can uncover erratics from a different bedrock further north.