EXPERIENCE COMPANION · AGES 9–15

Climb the Sleeping Giant

Name _____

Date _____

Hike the Top of the Giant Trail on Lake Superior with Sam, a geologist. Collect rocks on the way, then test them and look at them under a microscope.

Open it: inthelakes.ca/learn/experiences/wetland/giant/ · About 45–60 minutes

1 On the trail

Stop 1, The bottom of the Giant: what colour were lots of the cobbles on the beach?

Stop 2, Rock laid down in layers: how do sand and mud turn into rock?

Stops 3 and 4, The talus slope and the hard cap: draw the cliff. Label the hard cap, the softer shale under it, and the talus slope.

How does frost break blocks off the cliff?

Diabase cooled slowly, underground. Basalt cooled fast, at the surface. How does that change the size of their crystals?

Stop 5, Silver under the lake: what happened to the Silver Islet mine in 1884?

Stop 6, Ontario's highest cliffs: about how tall are the cliffs? What did glaciers do to the Superior basin?

Stop 7, Two kinds of land: how is the land west of Thunder Bay different from the land around the Giant?

❷ The rock bag

Record your tests for each rock.

Rock	Hand lens: what I saw	Scratches glass?	Magnet?	Streak	Kind of rock
Red pebble					
Banded pebble					
Talus block					
Black chert					

Draw one rock's thin slice in crossed polarizers. Which rock?

What changed when you turned the stage?

What did you find in the black chert?

Put the four rocks in order, oldest first.

Order	Rock	About how old
1		
2		
3		
4		

❸ In your own words

Tell the Giant's story in three or four sentences, from the oldest rock to today.