Table 8.1
Learning to distinguish observations and evidence from implications and assumptions.

One day while in your time machine in the future, you meet a fellow time traveler watching a strange dinosaur-like creature drag the carcass of an elephant into a cave. When you ask her what she is doing, she replies, "I'm watching that creature take elephants into her nest to feed her young." Both of you wait until the creature leaves, then you go explore the cave. You find three elephant carcasses, and stuffed down the throat of each of them is a large, white egg. The other traveler states that this evidence supports her hypothesis.

Identify any 1) observations and evidence and 2) claims, conclusions, or assumptions in the text above and put them in the correct column in the table below.

OBSERVATIONS AND EVIDENCE *What do we see? What was measured?*	IMPLICATIONS AND ASSUMPTIONS *What do the observations mean?*

Optional additional hints:

Here are some observations and claims extracted from the text for you. Can you figure out which are observations or evidence and which are claims, conclusions, or assumptions?

a. Each of the three elephants has an egg in its throat.
b. The eggs were laid by the dinosaur-like creature.
c. The dinosaur-like creature dug the cave.
d. The dinosaur-like creature will soon be back with another elephant.
e. The dinosaur-like creature is storing elephants to feed her offspring.

Chapter 8 Table 8.1—An exercise in identifying evidence, from *Learning to Read the Earth and Sky*