Physical Science and Unifying Themes Assessment Probes

## Is It a Model?

Below are listed things that students might do in a science class. Check off the things that are examples of using a model.

- **A** building a paper airplane
- **B** making an analogy (for example, the heart is like a pump)
- **C** observing a bird's behavior at a bird feeder
- **D** developing a mathematical equation to solve a science problem
- **E** making a plant cell out of household materials
- ${\ensuremath{\mathsf{F}}}$  analyzing whale migration patterns with a computer program
- G building and testing a bridge made of toothpicks
- **H** drawing an electrical circuit
- I forming a mental image of molecules in the liquid state
- J demonstrating the day/night cycle with a globe and flashlight
- **K** dissecting a cow's bone
- **L** watching a computer simulation of a hurricane
- **M** going on a field trip to the Grand Canyon
- **N** graphing the speed of a car
- **0** watching a live video of an active volcano
- **P** making a replica of a human heart out of clay
- **Q** looking at blood cells under a microscope

Explain your thinking. How did you decide whether something is a model?

