

Differentiating Observations and Inferences

Make two observations of each picture below. Then, characterize each observation as either a qualitative or quantitative observation.

1) _____

2) _____



3) _____

4) _____



5) _____

6) _____



It's Called an Inference

Think about this! How did that child get covered in mud? Where are those birds flying? What is the reason the tiger to show his teeth? The answers to these questions can be **inferences**. **An inference is something that involves a decision being made about something you observe. For example, after looking at the muddy child, one could say he is dirty because he played outside when it was raining. The birds are flying south in the winter to avoid cold temperatures. A predator is threatening the lives of this tiger's cubs. These are all inferences based on the observations made from the previous photos.**

Develop an inference for each of the following observations.

1. Sunflower A is 13 inches taller than Sunflower B.

2. The temperature of the living room is 67 degrees.

3. Claudia was sweating.

4. Brady wore sweat pants and a sweat shirt.

5. The mass of the solution dropped 5 grams.

6. Water is on the kitchen floor.

7. Brett walked out of the building with an umbrella.

8. The computer is not on.

9. Answer the question below. Mrs. Ruminski asked her class to make an inference of Mrs. Buley's appearance as she was walking in the hallway. Mrs. Buley was wearing a red shirt, khaki pants, and black shoes. She was also carrying a water bottle and multiple books. Alex responded by saying, "Mrs. Buley just left the library. She checked out a lot of books about the American Civil War." Was Alex's response correct? Explain your answer.

Looking at the Picture

Using the picture below make five (5) observations and three (3) inferences (using your observation) regarding that picture in the table below.



| Observations Made | Inferences Made |
|-------------------|-----------------|
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Boy in the Water

By looking at the "Boy in the Water" picture, determine if the statements below are inferences (I) or observations (O).

1. The boy is in the water. _____
2. The weather is cold. _____
3. The tree branch is broken. _____
4. The goat chased the boy up the tree. _____
5. The boy fell off the branch. _____
6. A goat is standing by the pond. _____
7. The boy is hurt. _____
8. The boy fell off the rocks. _____
9. There is a sailboat in the water. _____
10. The sailboat belongs to the boy. _____
11. The goat came from beyond the fence. _____
12. The tree by the pond is dead. _____
13. The tree by the pond has no leaves on it. _____
14. The rocks in the pond have been there since the beginning of time. _____
15. It is wintertime. _____

