

OBSERVING

We observe when we use one or more of our senses to find out about objects, events, or living things. An observation is a fact learned directly through the senses.



How do I make accurate observations?

1. Use as many senses as you can when you observe. Never taste unless you are told to taste something.
2. Think about how you can use your senses to obtain information about an object or event. Pick up an object, feel it, smell it.
3. Describe only what you observe directly with your senses.
4. Notice things that are changing. Include observations before, during and after the change.

INFERRING

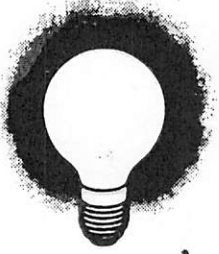
We infer when we use our past experiences to draw conclusions and make explanations about events not directly observed.



How do I infer?

1. Make an observation of an object or event.
2. Use your past experiences. Think of several inferences.
3. Decide what new observations would support those inferences.
4. Make new observations to determine if each of the inferences is an acceptable explanation.

Observations and Inferences



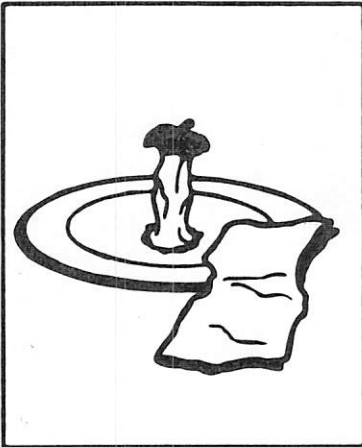
1.

Use the pictures that follow to make observations and inferences.



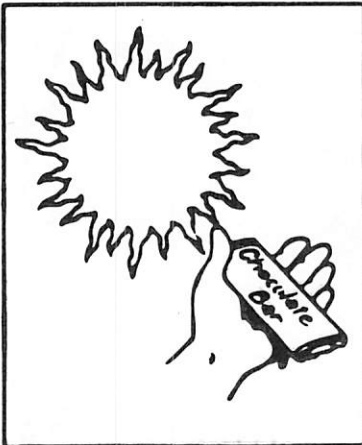
Observations: _____

Inferences: _____



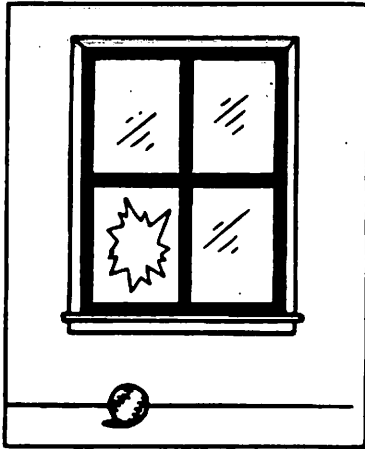
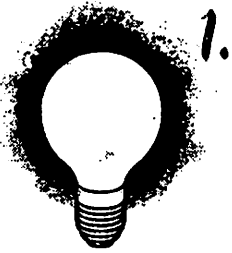
Observations: _____

Inferences: _____



Observations: _____

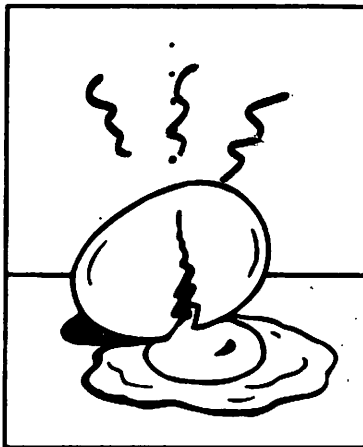
Inferences: _____



Observations: _____

Inferences: _____

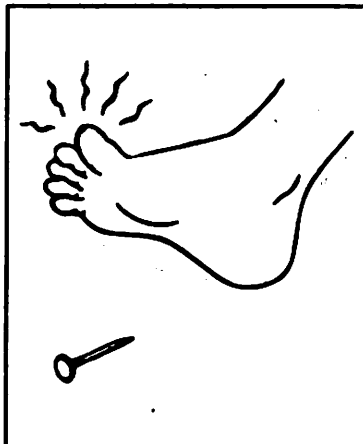
2.



Observations: _____

Inferences: _____

3.



Observations: _____

Inferences: _____

Making Inferences



Read the following observations. Then make inferences that explain each observation. Remember, there may be more than one logical explanation.

Observation 1: You observe that the sky at noon is darkening.

Your inference: _____

Observation 2: The principal interrupts class and calls a student from the room.

Your inference: _____

Observation 3: All middle school students are bringing lunch from home.

Your inference: _____

Observation 4: A former rock-and-roll band member has poor hearing.

Your inference: _____

Observation 5: You leave a movie theater and see that the street is wet.

Your inference: _____

Observation 6: During a handshake, you feel that the palm of the individual's hand is rough and hard.

Your inference: _____

Observation 7: The classroom lights are off.

Your inference: _____

Observation 8: A siren is heard going past the school.

Your inference: _____