

Name: _____

Science 8: Lesson 11A

Date: _____

Ms. Szency

Observation vs. Inference



Directions: Read each statement and decide whether it is an observation or an inference. Did the person making each statement observe or infer what he or she stated? Circle your answers then highlight any key words that helped you to your answer.

1. The container is filled to the 350 mL mark with water.
observation inference
2. The Sun rose at 6:54 this morning.
observation inference
3. The caterpillar did not eat the moth because it is not a carnivore.
observation inference
4. Sound traveled faster through the desk than through the air.
observation inference
5. The plant on the left is growing more because it has been receiving more water.
observation inference
6. When the Sun came out, it made the rain stop.
observation inference
7. I can jump high in tennis shoes because they have rubber on the bottom.
observation inference
8. When the power is turned on, the game lights up and plays a song.
observation inference
9. Dinosaurs died out when they could not adapt to the changing climate.
observation inference
10. Water can fall as precipitation, which may include rain, snow, or hail.
observation inference

**Science is based both on observation and inference.

Any phenomenon being studied must first be observed, whether it be from a satellite, through a microscope or just by using your own senses.

An inference is a reason proposed to explain an observation.



Directions: Write “O” if the statement is on Observation and “I” if it is an Inference.

1. The Sun produces heat and light. _____
2. My skin itches because it is dry. _____
3. My father’s ladder is unstable. _____
4. There is no one on the beach because jellyfish are in the water. _____
5. There are jellyfish in the water. _____
6. The baby is crying because it is hungry. _____
7. Mrs. Welsh is going to win the barbecue contest. _____
8. The bus schedule says that the bus will arrive at 12:10pm. _____
9. The foul odor is coming from Tim’s locker. _____
10. Hot air rises. _____
11. Cut apples oxidize (turn brown) after a while. _____
12. Mrs. Barber gave us a test because she was grumpy. _____

Answers:

1. O

2. I

3. O

4. I

5. O

6. I

7. I

8. O

9. O

10. O

11. O

12. I