

Observations and Inferences Worksheet

This assignment will be discussed in your next class period. Do both sides. You will be asked to do similar things on your Unit Proof. Make sure that you understand the differences between qualitative observations, quantitative observations and inferences.

Part One:

Read the following sentences carefully. Determine if the sentence is an observation (O), an inference (I), or a prediction (P). On the line to the left of the sentence write your answer.

1. (O) The mineral on the table is transparent and smooth.
2. (P) If I touch the hot pot-handle I will burn my hand.
3. (O) The stream is not polluted.
4. (I) It must have rained because there are many puddles.
5. (O) The stream velocity (speed) is 20 mph.

Part Two:

Read the following sentences carefully. For each sentence, underline the observation and circle the inference.

6. The people down the street must be having a barbecue because the air smells of smoke and burnt chicken.
7. There is a baseball in my driveway and my car windshield is broken.
Someone playing ball must have shattered my windshield.
8. The rock has scratches and is very polished. This rock was carved by a glacier.

Part Three:

Look at the diagram below. Read the statement and determine if it is an observation (O) or an inference (I). Write your answer on the line to the left.

9. (O) The plant has roots.
10. (I) The plant uses water.
11. (O) The plant has flowers.
12. (O) The plant has stems.
13. (I) The plant grew from a seed.

Name: _____ Period: _____ Date: _____

Making Observations Assignment - Teacher Edition

Physical Science

Part Four:

Take a walk around your backyard or neighborhood. Make six observations (3 quantitative and 3 qualitative) and three inferences about nature. Be prepared to share them in class. Write your observations on the back.

Qualitative Observations:

1. The air smells like fresh grass
2. The tree's leaves are brown
3. It's noisy outside

Quantitative Observations:

1. There is one lawnmower
2. There are two trees
3. There are three people walking on the sidewalk

Inferences:

1. The man behind the lawnmower must be cutting the grass.
2. The two people walking closely together are probably family.
3. The leaves are turning brown so it must be fall.