

# Observation or Inference?

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Key Vocabulary**

observation

observe

infer

inference

## Part I. Observation or 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.

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Part II. Make Observations and Inferences**

**Directions:** Look at the picture below. Then write three observations and two inferences, based on the picture.

1. (observation) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. (observation) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. (observation) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. (inference) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. (inference) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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# Observation or Inference? Answer Sheet

## Part I. Observation or Inference?

1. observation
2. observation
3. inference
4. observation
5. inference
6. inference
7. inference
8. observation
9. inference
10. observation

*As a challenge, have students turn each observation into an inference and each inference into an observation.*

## Part II. Make Observations and Inferences

*Observations and inferences will vary. Observations should be verifiable from direct evidence, with no interpretation required. Inferences should propose explanations or attribute reasons to statements. Samples are provided.*

1. (observation) *There are five penguins shown in the picture.*
2. (observation) *This habitat has water, ice, and snow.*
3. (observation) *Each penguin is black and white.*
4. (inference) *The penguins are fleeing a predator that can only hunt in the water.*
5. (inference) *More penguins are going to follow these five out of the water.*