Activity Name: Observation and Inference Quiz

Supplies:
Observation and Inference Worksheet

Preparation:
Copy worksheet for students
Review definitions of observation and inference

Concept:
Students learn to distinguish between observation and inference. Later they will be apply these ideas to their hypothesis.

Activity:
Have students fill out worksheet
Review answers

Conclusions:
By doing these simple exercises, students begin to think like scientists who are observing the world around us. These exercises help students to develop a more objective way of observing their surroundings.

Time: 20-25 Minutes
Inferences and Observations QUIZ

An observation is anything that can be taken in through the senses. This would be things that you see, hear, taste, smell, touch, or taste. An inference is a statement that explains the observations.

Suppose your friends went to the beach at noon on a warm day. They saw some black and white birds. Which of the following statements are observations and which are inferences? Indicate your answer with either the letter “O” for an observation, or the letter “I” for an inference.

1. ________ It is summertime.
2. ________ It is day time.
3. ________ They saw birds.
4. ________ They saw seagulls.
5. ________ They went swimming.
6. ________ One friend’s name was Bob.
7. ________ It was a warm day.
8. ________ The birds were black and white.
9. ________ They ate lunch and drank Coke.
10. ________ The people are friends.
Inferences and Observations Quiz - KEY FOR TEACHERS

An observation is anything that can be taken in through the senses. This would be things that you see, hear, taste, smell, touch, or taste. An inference is a statement that explains the observations.

Suppose your friends went to the beach at noon on a warm day. They saw some black and white birds. Which of the following statements are observations and which are inferences? Indicate your answer with either the letter “O” for an observation, or the letter “I” for an inference.

1. ___I____ It is summertime.

2. ___ O ____ It is day time.

3. ___ O ____ They saw birds.

4. ___ I ____ They saw seagulls.

5. ___ I ____ They went swimming.

6. ___ I ____ One friend’s name was Bob.

7. ___ O ____ It was a warm day.

8. ___ O ____ The birds were black and white.

9. ___ I ____ They ate lunch and drank Coke.

10. ___I/O__ The people are friends.