

Name _____
Mr. Chlystun

Date _____
Lab # _____

Observation and Inference

Introduction

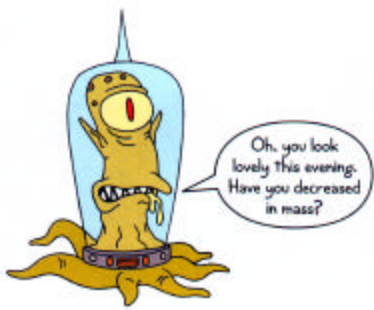
Throughout everyday life, humans are constantly making observations and inferences. We usually observe and infer things without even consciously thinking about them. The skills of observation and inference are very important in the subject of Science as they are the most basic techniques of the scientific method. Continually throughout the year, these skills will be of importance so they will be practiced in order to further understand these skills.

Materials

- You're Brain – This is the most important item for this lab as everything else can be found at each station you go to.

Procedure

- Several stations around the room are numbered with index cards. Visit each station once and make three observations and three inferences about each item at each station. You do not need to visit each station in number order.
- After making your observations and inferences sketch the item you observed.
- ALL of your observations and inferences must be done on the data sheets provided.
- After making observations and inferences try to come to a logical conclusion as to what the item at the station is. (If you're not sure, take a guess!!!)
- Once you have completed all the stations, return to your seats and answer the questions on the final page.



- ❖ Is this alien making an observation or an inference?

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Data Sheet

Station Number _____

Observations (at least three)

Inferences (at least three)

Sketch

Questions

1. On your data sheet, something was labeled as an observation at station number 1. Explain why this was an observation and not an inference.
2. On your data sheet, something was labeled as an inference at station number 2. Explain why this was an inference and not an observation.
3. On your data sheet, something was labeled as an observation at station number 4. Explain why this was an observation and not an inference.
4. On your data sheet, something was labeled as an inference at station number 5. Explain why this was an inference and not an observation.

5. What are observations? What are inferences? How are they alike? How are they different?

6. Are inferences more reliable than observations, less reliable than observations, or equally reliable? Explain your answer in a brief paragraph.