Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Handout: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Title: Observation versus Inference notes.**

1. Observation

An observation is information that you gather directly from your senses: *Sight, Smell, Hearing, Taste, Touch*

1. Inference

An inference is an educated guess based on your past experiences and prior knowledge.

*We use inferences to explain observations.*

**Example:**

Observation: The lawn was wet as I walked through it this morning.

Possible inferences:

It could have rained last night.

The sprinkler could have been on.

There is dew on the grass from the fog.

**Example:** You observe a student sitting in the main office.

List two inferences you could make about this observation:

1.

2.

Fill in the chart with observations and inferences about the classroom.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Observations | Inferences |
| 1.  2. | 1.  2. |

Practice

Your task is to determine if the following are observations or inferences. Put an O in front the observation and an I in front of the inferences.

\_\_\_\_ 1. The temperature at noon was 78 degrees.

\_\_\_\_ 2. It is a very hot day.

\_\_\_\_ 3. The price of gasoline is rising.

\_\_\_\_ 4. Bill’s car is very fast.

\_\_\_\_ 5. The test was very easy.

\_\_\_\_ 6. The candle weighed 71 grams.

\_\_\_\_ 7. The test tube felt hot.

\_\_\_\_ 8. The flowers did not grow due to the lack of sunshine.

\_\_\_\_ 9. The dimension of the card is 3” x 5”.

\_\_\_\_ 10. The Amoeba moved toward the light.

\_\_\_\_ 11. The price of gasoline is unreasonable.

\_\_\_\_ 12. There are three blue rulers on the table.

\_\_\_\_ 13. Judging by the clouds, it will probably rain this afternoon.

\_\_\_\_ 14. The toy car is red.

\_\_\_\_ 15. The room is very quiet.

\_\_\_\_ 16. Poodles are awesome.

Write two observations and two inferences about the picture below.

Observations:

1.

2.

Inferences:

1.

2.