

Clues From Senses

Use observations to separate what happened from what you think.

SC.2.N.1.5 “Distinguish between empirical observation (what you see, hear, feel, smell, or taste) and ideas or inferences (what you think).”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail Maya learns with her senses. Circle the sentence that tells her idea about the plant.

Maya Checks a Plant

- ① Scientists use their senses to learn. An observation is something a person sees, hears, feels, smells, or tastes. “The bell rings loudly” is an observation. An inference is an idea that uses observations. It may be right or wrong.
- ② At the school garden, Maya looked at a bean plant. She saw three green leaves on the ground. She felt dry soil with one finger. She heard no water dripping from the hose. Then Maya wrote, “The plant needs water.”
- ③ Maya used these details to make an idea about the plant. Her senses did not tell her exactly why the leaves fell. The dry soil and quiet hose gave her clues. She could check her idea by watching the plant after watering it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 Write two details Maya learned with her senses.

2 Which sentence tells Maya's idea about the plant, not something she sensed?

3 Why is "The plant needs water" an idea? Use one clue from the passage.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Look closely at an object near you. Write one sentence about what you observe with a sense, and write one sentence about what you think. Label the sentences O and I.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail Maya learns with her senses. Circle the sentence that tells her idea about the plant. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write two details Maya learned with her senses.	Any two: She saw three green leaves on the ground. She felt dry soil. She heard no water dripping from the hose.
2	Which sentence tells Maya's idea about the plant, not something she sensed?	"The plant needs water."
3	Why is "The plant needs water" an idea? Use one clue from the passage.	Maya could not sense that the plant needed water. She used clues such as the dry soil, leaves on the ground, or the hose not dripping.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

O: I see drops of water on my cold cup. I: I think the cup came from a cooler.

Accept observations that report something directly seen, heard, felt, smelled, or tasted. Accept inferences that state an idea based on the observation, even if the idea could later be shown wrong.