

Clues in Nature

Use observations to make reasonable science inferences.

SC.3.N.1.6 "Infer based on observation."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline observations that could be clues. Number three clues that help you make an inference about what may have happened.

A Class Looks Closely

- ① On Monday morning, Ms. Cruz's class checked the bean plants beside the school fence. One plant had green leaves with tiny holes. Several shiny trails crossed the soil near its stem. The class did not see any animals on the plant. Ms. Cruz asked students to write only what they noticed before they tried to explain it.
- ② At the bird feeder, the seed level was lower than it had been on Friday. Small, three-toed prints covered the damp ground below the feeder. A few seeds lay near the prints, but the feeder was still hanging straight. The class heard chirps in a nearby tree. They recorded each observation in a notebook that morning.
- ③ After a rainy recess, a puddle lay on the blacktop. By lunchtime, its edge had moved closer to a crack in the pavement. The day was sunny, and the blacktop felt warm. No one had walked through the puddle after recess. A dry patch appeared where water had been earlier. The class discussed which clues could support an explanation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What is a reasonable inference about what made the tiny holes in the bean leaves?

2 Which observation is the strongest clue for your inference about the bean plant? Explain why.

3 What animal most likely visited the bird feeder? Use two observations to support your inference.

4 What probably happened to some of the puddle water by lunchtime? Use the weather clues in your answer.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Observe something in your classroom or outside. Write one observation and one inference it supports. Include a clue that explains why your inference is reasonable.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline observations that could be clues. Number three clues that help you make an inference about what may have happened. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What is a reasonable inference about what made the tiny holes in the bean leaves?	A snail or slug may have eaten parts of the leaves.
2	Which observation is the strongest clue for your inference about the bean plant? Explain why.	The shiny trails are the strongest clue because snails and slugs can leave shiny trails.
3	What animal most likely visited the bird feeder? Use two observations to support your inference.	A bird most likely visited. The three-toed prints and chirps in the nearby tree support this inference.
4	What probably happened to some of the puddle water by lunchtime? Use the weather clues in your answer.	Some water probably evaporated because the day was sunny and the blacktop was warm.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I observed several torn paper pieces beside the recycling bin. I infer that someone dropped paper while carrying it, because the pieces are on the floor next to the bin.

Accept reasonable inferences that are supported by details from the passage. For Your Turn, accept varied observations and inferences when the student clearly connects a clue to the inference.