

Evidence or Idea

Tell what was observed from what was interpreted.

SC.5.N.1.6 “Recognize and explain the difference between personal opinion/interpretation and verified observation.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Maya's verified observation, and circle her personal interpretation.

A Pill Bug Investigation

- ① During a schoolyard investigation, Maya placed a dry leaf and a damp leaf in a tray. She gently set one pill bug in the center and watched for five minutes. Her notebook said, “The pill bug moved under the damp leaf after two minutes.” This statement tells what Maya saw and timed. Another student could watch the same setup and check it.
- ② A verified observation reports something a person sees, hears, measures, or counts. It can be checked by repeating the observation or examining recorded evidence. A personal interpretation is an idea about what the evidence means. It may use words such as because, probably, or seems. An interpretation can be useful, but it is not verified until evidence supports it.
- ③ After the trial, Maya wrote, “Pill bugs prefer damp places because they need water.” Her class had observed only one pill bug during one five-minute trial. The sentence offers a possible explanation, but it does not report a direct observation. To investigate the idea, the class could repeat trials with several pill bugs, keep the tray conditions alike, and record where each bug goes.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What verified observation did Maya record in her notebook?

2 Why can another student check Maya's notebook statement?

3 Which sentence is Maya's personal interpretation?

4 How would repeating trials and recording where several pill bugs go help the class check Maya's interpretation?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Choose a science event you could observe at school or at home. Write one verified observation and one personal interpretation about it. Label each sentence.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline Maya's verified observation, and circle her personal interpretation. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What verified observation did Maya record in her notebook?	The pill bug moved under the damp leaf after two minutes.
2	Why can another student check Maya's notebook statement?	It reports what Maya saw and timed. Another student could repeat the same setup and observe or time the pill bug.
3	Which sentence is Maya's personal interpretation?	"Pill bugs prefer damp places because they need water."
4	How would repeating trials and recording where several pill bugs go help the class check Maya's interpretation?	The class would collect more observations. The recorded results could provide evidence that supports or does not support the interpretation.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Verified observation: The thermometer read 21°C at 9:00 a.m. Personal interpretation: I think the classroom feels cold because the air conditioner is running.

Accept an observation that reports something directly seen, measured, counted, heard, or otherwise checkable. Accept an interpretation that explains or suggests what the observation means, rather than claiming it was directly observed.