INFERRING

Making Inferences

An **inference** is a logical conclusion drawn from available evidence and prior knowledge. Inferences are often made from observations. They are attempts to explain the things we see. The more prior knowledge you have, the better your inferences. When making inferences, be sure to look at all of the available evidence and combine it with what you already know.
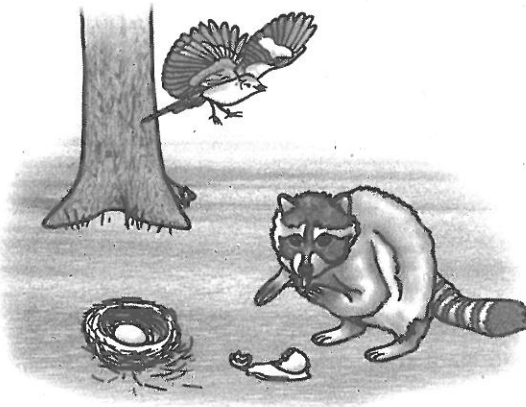
1. A young child feels the wind blowing and sees the trees swaying back and forth. She infers that the movement of the trees is causing the wind. What prior knowledge does she probably lack?

   _____

   _____

2. Write the available evidence, your prior knowledge, and several inferences beside each of the following diagrams.

   Available evidence: _____

   _____

   _____

   Prior knowledge: _____

   _____

   _____

   Inferences: _____

   _____

   _____

Inferring and Hypothesizing

Available evidence: _____

_____

_____
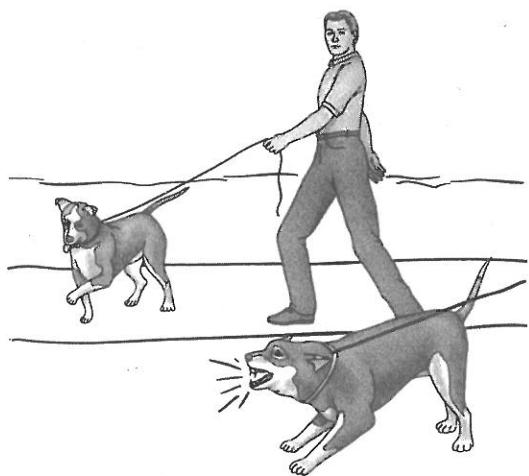
Prior knowledge: _____

_____

_____

Inferences: _____

_____

_____

Available evidence: _____

_____

_____
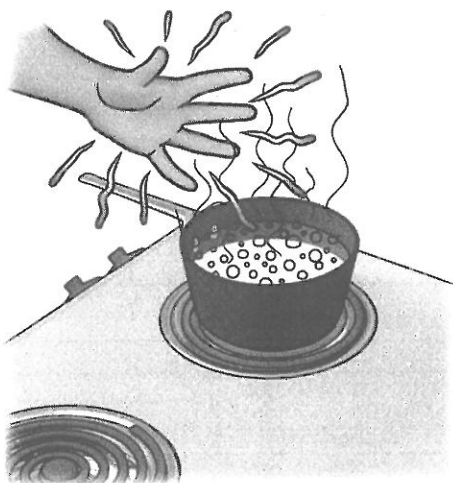
Prior knowledge: _____

_____

_____

Inferences: _____

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Challenge Why might the inferences you made about the pictures above be different from inferences you might have made about the pictures four years ago?

_____

_____

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Inferring and Hypothesizing