

OBSERVATION VS. INFERENCE

Distinguish between an observation and an inference

An *observation* is something that can be made with only the five senses (site, touch, hear, taste, and smell), and an *inference* is something that involves a decision being made about something you observe. Our class wrote the following definitions of *observation* and *inference* in our notes.

Observation: Something that can be made with only the five senses.

Inference: Something that involves a decision being made about something you observe.

**See the table below for examples of each.*

You can make observations and inferences with any object. The RockaBrain.com team made a list of observations and inferences about an object like the one below.

Remember, an observation is something made by using the five senses: smell, sound, sight, touch, and taste. Below is our list of observations and inferences.



Observations	Inferences
It has red spots. It has yellow on it. It feels rough It feels light. It smells bad. It doesn't make a sound unless you move it. It's round It's squishy.	I think it's a hacky sack. It's used to play with. It must be a ball. It's a soccer ball. It's a toy.