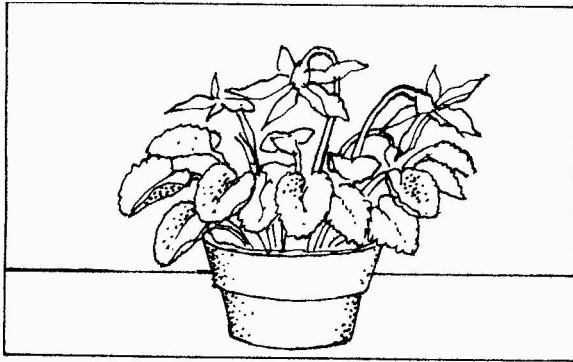


## Science Skills 6

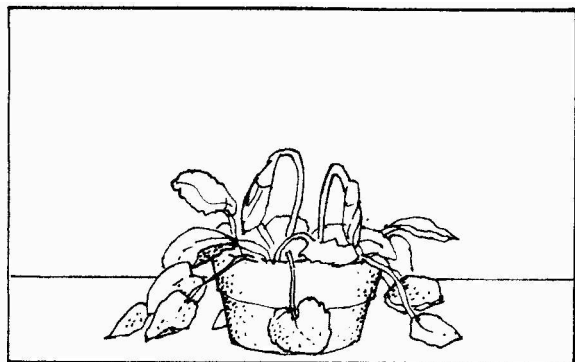
### Inferring

Have you ever walked into the cafeteria, smelled pizza cooking and thought, “We’re having pizza for lunch”? You made an observation using your sense of smell and used past experience to conclude what your next meal would be. Such a conclusion is called an inference.

Making an inference, or inferring, is explaining or interpreting an observation or statement. Inferences should be reasonable – they must make sense.



**Figure A**



**Figure B**

**Directions:** Make 3 observations about Figure A. Write in **complete sentences**.

---

---

---

**Directions:** Observe Figure B. Make 3 observations about Figure B. Write in complete sentences.

---

---

**Directions:** Explain what happened to the plant in Figure B by making an inference.

---

---

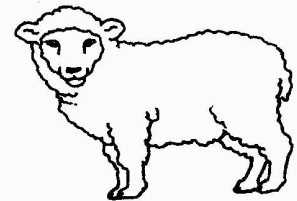
---

You can also make observations and inferences from readings. Read the stories below and determine the facts and inferences.

1. During World War I, sheep roamed the White House lawn. The sheep were President Wilson's attempt to help the war effort. Since the sheep kept the grass short, the regular gardeners were not needed. They could be sent to the military. But not everyone liked the sheep. One reason was that the sheep ate the lawn's bushes and flowers. The president defended the use of the sheep. He said they also provided wool for blankets for the Red Cross.

Fact   Inference

- |                       |                       |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. The sheep provided wool.                     |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. President Wilson liked the sheep.            |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. The gardeners could be sent to the military. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. The sheep kept the grass short.              |



2. Ancient doctors believed that the human body was controlled by four liquids. They called these liquids blood, phlegm, black bile, and yellow bile. They were known as the four humors. The doctors believed that these four humors needed to be in balance. If they were not, then disease and pain filled the body.

Fact   Inference

- |                       |                       |  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Doctors thought humors controlled the body. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Blood was one of the four humors.           |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Doctors tried to keep the humors balanced.  |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Today doctors don't believe in humors.      |

3. In Greek legends Persephone was a pretty girl who loved the springtime and the outdoors. She was the daughter of Demeter, the goddess of the harvest. One day as the girl picked flowers on Earth, a great cart rumbled by her. In it was Hades, king of the underworld. He grabbed the girl and carried her to his world of dark caves deep below the earth. Persephone wanted to return to her mother. But Hades had fallen in love with the girl. So the young girl who loved sunshine was made the queen of the cold underworld.

Fact   Inference

- |                       |                       |   |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---|
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | A. Persephone was made queen of the underworld. |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | B. Hades forced Persephone to stay with him.    |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | C. Persephone did not like the underworld.      |
| <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | D. Demeter was the mother of Persephone.        |