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Observation and inference pdf

Your students may have difficulty understanding how science classes relate to what scientists do in the real world. What do scientists do to learn about their environment? How do scientists collect data and determine which data is reliable? A great way to start a conversation is with activities in Observation and Inference. This makes students think about ways personal perspectives can impact scientific studies. SaveSave Sponge or bellwork: Our lessons always start with bell-work questions or activities that make kids think about existing topics. For example: Ask students how they use observation in their daily lives – our favorite example is asking students what we keep in our filing cabinet. Most say PAPER! Can they see the paper though? Not with a closed drawer! We then opened the drawer to reveal to them that we did, in fact, store our papers and files there. It opens up a discussion about how looking at a paper is an observation while the paper guesses or concludes it is there without actually seeing it is a conclusion. That discussion then leads to the meaning of observation and brings us into a conversation about the five senses and how they help us to gather information about our environment. We summarize everything by comparing the definition of observation with the conclusion. Remind them to cite evidence of their reasoning and that, while their thoughts and words are what we want them to record, options like I don't know or because I don't think that's an acceptable answer. Explain: Once you've passed through the stomach, use the presentation to discuss the differences between observation, inference, and prediction. Be sure to talk about these kinds of conclusions – qualitative and quantitative – and give them some sample images to practice with or just make observations, conclusions and predictions about the classroom and the world around you. Explore This: Now turn your students loose with their newfound knowledge and present them with scenarios, such as our interactive notebook activity Digging for Evidence. You can also use scenes from the Internet, excerpts from books, or real-world examples of whodunnit. Whether students make observations about scenes or quotes and then draw conclusions and conclusions from their observations. Here's an example of our lesson below - students are given track scenarios and organism signs and must make observations and conclusions using guide questions: Our scenarios are projected on the board, and as students watch PowerPoint presentations, the remaining excavation sites are revealed. They then drew visible evidence to the corresponding excavation site on their paper. Again can create a similar experience for your students by revealing part of the projected scene, or part of an excerpt from a story. Once their site is finished, do students answer questions about the evidence they collect. Collect. they should feel how their observations can lead to similar or different conclusions from their classmates. Here are Some Extensions to This Lesson: For the final part of their assignment, give students the option to create stories about their site, either by creating comics or writing stories. If you choose a quote to read, do students come up with some alternative ending based on their observations. We've always loved this assignment because it was their first homework of the year and the choice of assignments allowed us to gain insight into our students' learning styles. You can also open up assignments to debate - if your students are excited about their observations, the debate becomes very heated with students insisting on what they observe and what they conclude about the scenario. These healthy debates are perfect for science classes because they make students feel comfortable voicing their opinions early on, encouraging them to think outside the box during future discussions. Ask students to create their own scenarios and have them trade papers with classmates to see if they can determine the artist's goals. Need to Modify? For students who have a writing deficit, oral or video presentations will work fine. Give students the whole scenario instead of having them draw the scenario as revealed. If you don't have time to make this lesson, please check out our Proof of Excavation lesson in our store – and if you need additional support, check out our Scientific Methods unit too! Happy teaching! Note: The following activities are based on the National Academy of Sciences. 1998. Teaching About Evolution and the Nature of Science. Washington, DC: National Press Academy. [doi:10.17226/5787] Here is a classic activity that helps students distinguish between observations and conclusions, but also encourages them to revise their thinking as more information is available. Tell students that they will see images of fossil traces, but gradually. (reveal area A) Paraphrase: Take a look at this fossil footprint scene. They may be from prehistoric times or much newer. Make three or more observations. Using what you know, are there any conclusions you can make? (reveal Area B) Let's broaden our view of that scene. Now there are two types of footprints. Make five or more observations. You may describe the size, shape, direction, number, distance.... Using what you know, what conclusions can you make? (revealed Area C) Now we see more footprints. There's a lot of data now. What can we observe and conclude here? Be careful not to jump to conclusions about what might happen here, but you can form some hypotheses. Ask: What is the footprint pattern change of speed, direction, or whatever for each creature? What footprints can suggest about what a creature or landscape looks like and how might they have interacted, if at all? (revealed Area D) Finally, we however have more footprints even further to the right but it's quite different. Make additional observations and then conclude as many conclusions as you can that you think make sense. Reasonable.