

Observations and Inferences Notes

You should be taking Cornell-style notes...

What is an observation?

- An **observation** is an act of noting and recording an event, characteristic, behavior, or anything else detected with an instrument or the senses.

What types of observations are there?

- **Qualitative observations** include descriptions of sights, sounds, smells, and textures.
- For example: **The people in the stadium are loud.**



What types of observations are there?

- Quantitative observations are expressed in numbers.
 - anything that can be expressed as a number
 - time, temperature, mass, distance, volume, etc.

- For example: **The bike has two wheels.**



What is an inference?

- An **inference** is a logical conclusion drawn from available evidence and prior knowledge.
 - attempts to explain what we see
- Often made based on *observations*
 - Be sure to look at all available evidence before inferring.

What is an inference?

- For example: **The penguins are at the zoo.**



Let's practice...

Is the following an
observation or an
inference?

It is the Fourth of July.

