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.