

SPARK Science & Technology

SPARK Hybrid Education Center | Mystery Bag Lab - Observation vs. Inference

Student Name: _____

Date: _____

Purpose

How can we use our senses (without sight) to make accurate observations and form hypotheses?

Materials

- * Mystery bag with 3-5 objects
- * Paper and pencil
- * Data recording sheet

Procedure

1. Without looking, feel each object carefully.
2. Record at least 3 observations per object (texture, shape, size, weight).
3. Write an inference about what each object might be.
4. Reveal the objects and compare to your inferences.
5. Record whether each inference was correct or incorrect.

Data / Observations Table

Object #	Observations (3+)	Inference	Actual Object	Correct?

Analysis Questions

1. Which sense gave the MOST useful information? Explain.

2. What is the difference between an observation and an inference you made?

3. How does prior knowledge affect your inferences?

4. If your inference was wrong, what observation misled you?

Conclusion

In my own words, what did I learn from this lab?
