**Outdoor Lab 2: Observations vs Inferences**

**Goals**:

1. To improve observation skills.
2. To make logical explanations after the fact based on the observations.

**Prelab Questions:**

1. What is an observation? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Give an example of an observation:
3. What is an inference? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
4. Give an example of an observation:

**Part 1: Observations**

**Directions**:You will be assigned either the pond, the young forest, or the old forest. Go to your location and make the observations asked on the second page.

* NOTE: You will use these observations later, so make them detailed! “It’s green” does not count as a detailed observation.

**Part 2: Inferences**

* Write one observation from each location below.
* Then make an inference that would **explain** that observation.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Observation:** What did you see? | **Inference:** Why might that be? |
| **1.** |  |
| **2.** |  |
| **3.** |  |

**Questions:**

1. For observation #1, how did you come up with your logical explanation?
2. For observation #2, how did you come up with your logical explanation?
3. For observation #3, how did you come up with your logical explanation?

**Pond**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Describe the size and shape of the pond.
 |
| 1. Describe what is around the edges (is there anything man-made?) the pond.
 |
| 1. Describe the plants growing inside in the pond.
 |
| 1. Describe the plants growing at the edge of the pond.
 |
| 1. Describe the animals that are in or around the pond.
 |
| 1. Draw a picture of this pond. Label the different (#1-6 above) parts.
 |

**Young Forest**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Describe all of the different types of trees.
 |
| 1. Describe all of the lower standing plants (shrubs, grasses, brambles (any spikey), etc.
 |
| 1. Describe the animals that are found in the younger forest.
 |
| 1. Describe the shape of the land area that the younger forest takes up. You may draw a picture of the shape instead.
 |
| 1. Draw a picture of the younger forest. Label the different (#7-9 above) parts.
 |

**Old Forest**

|  |
| --- |
| 1. Describe all of the different types of trees.
 |
| 1. Describe all of the lower standing plants (shrubs, grasses, brambles (any spikey), etc.
 |
| 1. Describe the animals that are found in the Mature forest.
 |
| 1. Describe the shape of the land area that the Mature forest takes up. You may draw a picture of the shape instead.
 |
| 1. Draw a picture of the Mature forest. Label the different (#7-9 above) parts.
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