

Making Observations, Inferences, and Hypotheses?

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This activity asks you to use your present knowledge to determine the skill used to form each of the statements below.

Classroom Event

A container with a two-inch layer of damp potting soil was placed on a table in a classroom. A piece of white bread was placed on the soil. The container was covered with a lid and allowed to sit on the table for one week. During this time, students were asked to make statements about the container and its contents. Listed below are some of the statements made students during the week. Read their statements and identify which are statements of observation, inference, or hypothesis. Blacken the "O" corresponding to your choice.

<u>Statements</u>	<u>Observation</u>	<u>Inference</u>	<u>Hypothesis</u>
1. "The bread looks soggy," said one student (day one).	O	O	O
2. "The container is glass," one group reported (day one).	O	O	O
3. "All clear containers are made of glass," another group responded (day one).	O	O	O
4. "The top of the bread has three green spots about the size of a dime on it," said another student (day three).	O	O	O
5. One small group stated that "When uncovered, the bread has a musty smell," (day four).	O	O	O
6. "Laboratory analysis would reveal the spots to be patches of mold," said one group of students (day five).	O	O	O
7. "All types of bread will mold if put in the container," was a statement given by a small group of students who brought in several types of bread to try out in the container (day five).	O	O	O
8. "Mold is the stuff that grows in damp places," was a summary statement given by a small group of students (day five).	O	O	O
9. "The bread has seven quarter-sized patches color on it," was reported by a small group of students (day eight).	O	O	O
10. "As the number of days increases there will be more patches of mold on the bread," another group stated (day eight).	O	O	O
11. "Someone must have poured something on the bread to make it mold," was a statement given by another student (day nine).	O	O	O
12. The following statement was given by a small group of students as a starting point for their project "The higher the temperature in a moist environment, the more mold spores will increase in number on the bread."	O	O	O