



Inferences

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet



When you ***infer***, you use clues from the story and what you already know to figure something out.

Animals in Winter

Winter usually means colder temperatures and less food. Different animals deal with this season in different ways. Groundhogs hibernate, or sleep until spring. As they hibernate, their bodies slow down so they don't need to eat or drink anything during this time. Other animals, like birds, migrate in the winter. This means they fly south toward warmer weather where there is more food.

Squirrels and chipmunks take a different approach. These small animals search and store food throughout the fall so they are ready for winter. They gather nuts and seeds and hide them carefully. They then return to their hidden food throughout the colder months. Sometimes they may forget where they've hidden their food. In this case, other animals may find it. Other times, these forgotten seeds turn into trees in the spring!



Deer, on the other hand, have a few strategies to survive the winter. First, their bodies prepare to stay warm by growing thicker fur. When winter comes, they spend a good portion of their days carefully searching for plants and food to eat under the snow. The deeper the snow, the harder it is for deer to move and find food. When this happens, deer tend to look for areas where snow is cleared away.

Why may deer come into neighborhoods during the winter, instead of staying in forests? Use the text and what you already know to fill in the chart and infer your answer:

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference



The Soccer Surprise

Jayden's cleats were noisy as he ran down the sidewalk. Saturday mornings were his favorite part of the week, because he always spent them at the park. Usually, it was just his team there for at least a little while. There was nothing better than having the whole field to themselves!

This week, Jayden was extra excited to play. There had been indoor recess the entire week, which was fun, but meant he didn't get to run around. After school wasn't any better, either. He never got to play outside. He sure was ready to move!

When Jayden reached the park gate, though, he stopped. The field was empty and the fence was locked. A big truck was parked next to the field and two people in orange vests were looking at the grass and writing notes on their clipboards. As he looked closer, he saw that the field was pretty soggy and that a tree had fallen across one of the goals. A little bird was swimming in what looked like a deep puddle in the middle of the field.

Behind him, Jayden heard a car door close.

"Hey Jayden!" one of his teammates called. "What's going on? Why is the field locked up?"



What should Jayden tell his teammate? Use the text and what you already know to fill in the chart and infer your answer:

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference



Answers

Answers will vary. Examples include:

Animals in Winter

Clues in text:

- In the winter, deer spend their days looking for food under the snow.
- It is hard for deer to find food in deep snow.
- Deer tend to look for areas where snow is cleared away.

What I know:

Snow is often cleared away in neighborhoods.

Inference:

The deer go into neighborhoods to search for food in winter.

The Soccer Surprise

Clues in text:

- There had been indoor recess the entire week.
- After school wasn't any better. He never got to play outside.
- Two people in orange vests looked at the field and then wrote notes on their clipboards.
- The field looked pretty soggy and a tree had fallen across one of the goals.

What I know:

A storm can make a field soggy.

Inference:

A storm occurred during the week, which ruined the soccer field.