

Grades 3-5

24 cards, each with a paragraph
and inference question.

INFERENCE

Set 1

INFERENCE

10

Cody knew he was in big trouble. He looked glumly at the math test on the desk in front of him. The door opened and Mr. Anders came into the office. "I've called your parents and they are on their way," he said.

Why is Cody in trouble?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

14

The bus was full of children. Everyone was laughing and talking. Ben scratched a mosquito bite on his leg. It had been a fun week, but he was glad that tonight he would be sleeping in his own bed instead of in a sleeping bag.

Where was the bus coming from?

How do you know?



INFERENCE

23

Dad and Krystal were finishing up a project in the garage together. "Can we paint the roof red?" asked Krystal.

"Sure," said Dad. "Then when the paint dries we can find a place to hang it in the back yard."

What do you think Dad and Krystal are making?

Why do you think so?



Task Cards



INFERENCE TASK CARDS (SET 1)

Inference is such a tricky skill to master, but these 24 cards can help! Use them orally in small groups, or individually as a writing assignment at a literacy center. Another option is to use one card at a time with the entire class. Students can answer on notebook paper and track the cards they have completed on the included recording sheet. Alternatively, student answer sheets are provided. An answer key is also included. In addition there is an inference poster, a cover/label card, and a challenge card that can be used with any other card in the set to extend the activity.

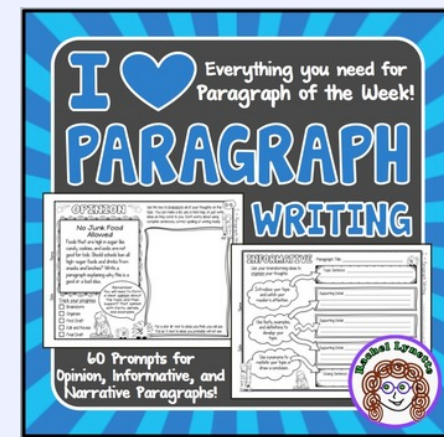
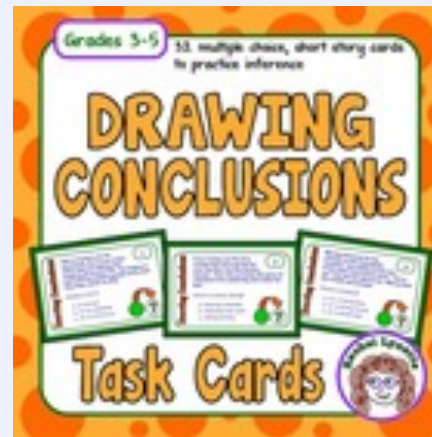
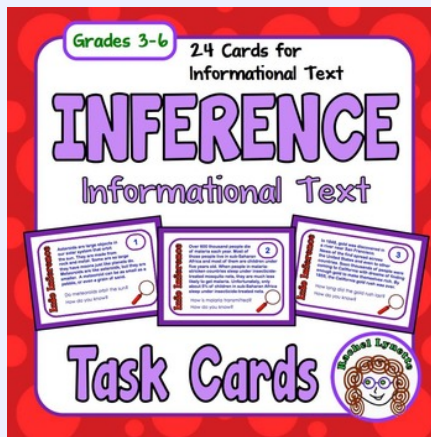
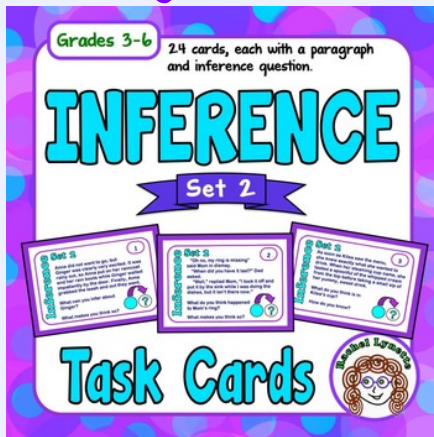
Print this set out in color. For black and white printing, please use the included black line version. If you are printing in black and white, consider printing on colored paper. Simply print and cut along the guidelines. Laminate and use them again and again. Alternatively, you could print on cardstock. It works well to keep them in a baggie. Another option is to hole-punch a corner of each card and put them all on a ring.

These cards are correlated with the following Common Core Standard for grades 4, 5, and 6.

[CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL.4.1](#) Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

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very much

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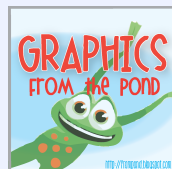


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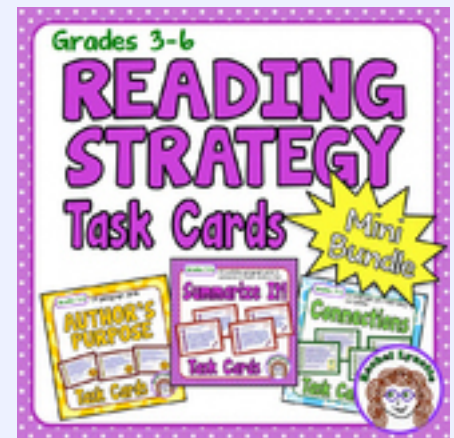
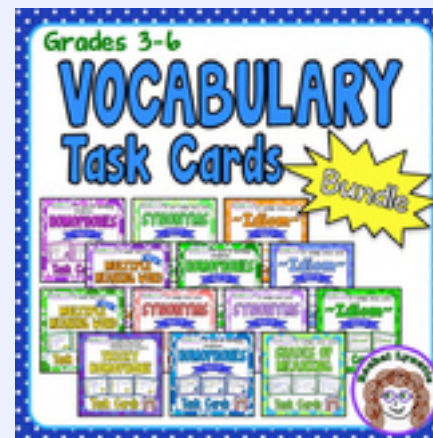
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INFERENCE

1

Splat! "Oh, rats!" thought Katie as she stooped to clean up the mess. "I hope we have another one." She looked in the fridge and pulled out the carton. One left! Breakfast wasn't ruined after all.

What did Katie clean up?

How do you know?



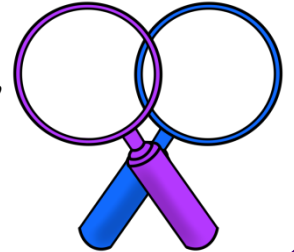
INFERENCE

2

The scout leader looked at the sky and muttered something under his breath. Then he looked at the map. "Let's get moving," he called to the group of tired boys. "The faster the better."

What do you think the scout leader was feeling?

Why do you think so?



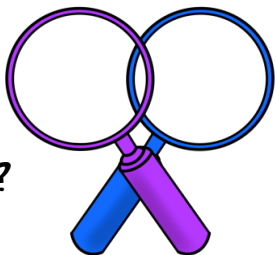
INFERENCE

3

It was 8:30 on Thursday night. Emily stared at the large, empty poster board on her bed. Then she looked at the stack of books about Abraham Lincoln on her desk. Emily began to cry.

Why do you think Emily was crying?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

4

"Ouch!" Lucy had fallen again! She shivered and picked herself back up. Then she spotted her older sister Sarah, gliding backwards. She was so graceful. Sarah made everything look so easy.

What is Lucy doing?

How do you know?



INFERENCE

5

Micah hid behind the bushes. Soon, a group of older boys walked by talking and laughing. Micah's heart was beating fast. He tried not to make any noise. Micah waited until he could not hear the boys anymore. Then he picked up his books and walked home.

Why was Micah hiding?

What makes you think so?



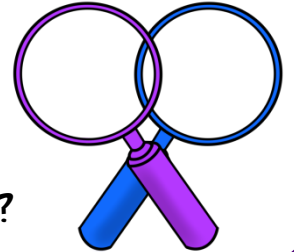
INFERENCE

6

Jenna went upstairs and quietly peeked into a dark room. She listened for a moment, and then went back downstairs. She washed the dinner dishes and then she studied for an Algebra test until Mr. and Mrs. Olson got home.

Why did Jenna go upstairs?

What makes you think so?



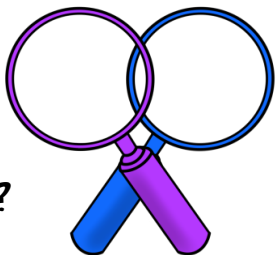
INFERENCE

7

Ana and Sophie sat in their chairs staring straight ahead for nearly two hours. They did not talk or hardly even move, but they were not bored at all.

Where were Ana and Sophie?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

8

Derek ran up the court, "I'm open!" he yelled toward the boy with the ball. The boy passed the ball to Derek and he made his shot! The crowd cheered as two more points were added to the scoreboard.

What game was Derek playing?

How do you know?



INFERENCE

9

It was May 10th. Jason shut the door to his bedroom. Then he found the present he had hidden in the back of his closet. He wrapped it carefully in pink paper. "Only three days until Sunday!" He thought.

Who will Jason give his present to?

Why do you think so?



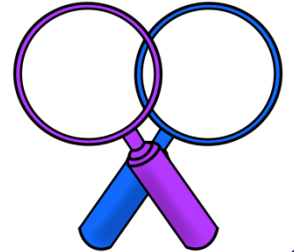
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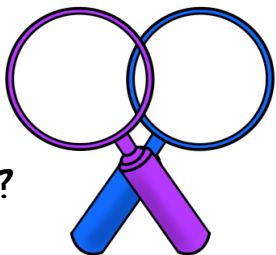
INFERENCE

11

Mom lit three candles. "There, that's better," she said. Claire turned off her flashlight. The house was quiet except for the sound of the wind blowing through the trees outside.

Why did Mom light candles?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

12

Sasha handed the book to the librarian. The librarian opened the book and found crayon scribbles on almost every page. "I'm really sorry," said Sasha. "I should have kept the book in my room."

What happened to Sasha's library book?

Why do you think so?



INFERENCE

13

Susie looked down at her beautiful dress. She looked like a princess! The music started to play. She held the flowers tightly and started to walk slowly towards the front. Everyone smiled as she walked by.

Where is Susie?

Why do you think so?



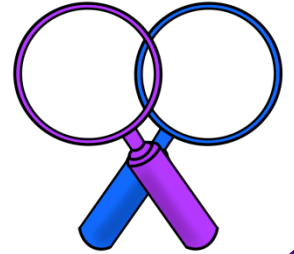
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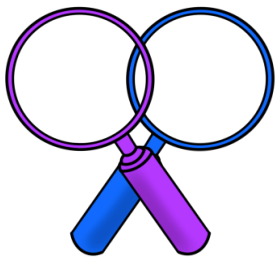
INFERENCE

15

Carlos looked down at the people far below. It was a little scary to be so high, but he knew he was safe. The sun felt hot. Carlos decided to buy a snow cone when he was on the ground again.

Where is Carlos?

How do you know?



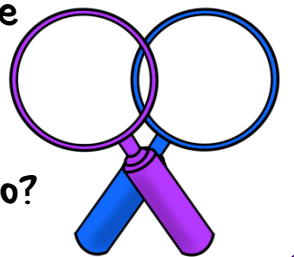
INFERENCE

16

People kept coming over to visit Rachel's family. They brought food and gifts. Many of the visitors asked Rachel how she liked being a big sister.

Why were so many people coming to visit Rachel's family?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

17

Alex ran all the way home from school. "Mom!" he shouted as soon as he opened the door, "Look!" He handed his mother some papers. "You were right, all that studying really did pay off!" he said excitedly.

What was on the papers?

What makes you think so?



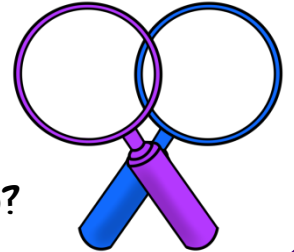
INFERENCE

18

Cara tried not to fidget in her new dress. There were at least a hundred people in the audience. What if she messed up? She heard her name and for a moment, she could not move. The girl next to her gave her a gentle push and she walked onto the stage and toward the piano.

What was Cara feeling?

What makes you think so?



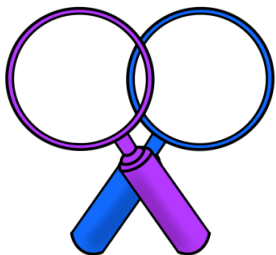
INFERENCE

19

When Ethan woke up, the room was bright with sunlight. He looked at the clock and leapt out of bed. He threw on his clothes, grabbed his backpack, and ran out the door without eating breakfast.

Why was Ethan in such a hurry?

How do you know?



INFERENCE

20

"Can I play the winner in the next game?" Maya asked. "Sure," Lydia replied. "but you will probably be playing Emma. She has four kings and I only have one."

What game are Lydia and Emma playing?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

21

Mr. Jones stood on his front porch watching the boys run away down the street. He walked slowly to the sidewalk and picked up the bat that was laying there. Then he looked at the broken window on his house and sighed.

Why were the boys running away?

How do you know?



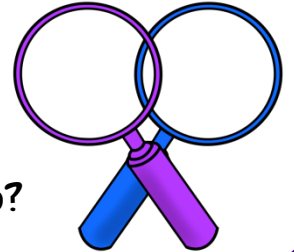
INFERENCE

22

Maria woke up in the middle of the night. She had to go to the bathroom. The room was so dark. The house was so quiet. Maria wished that she still shared her room with her big sister Laura, but Laura had moved into her own room a few days ago. Maria did not move.

Why didn't Maria go to the bathroom?

What makes you think so?



INFERENCE

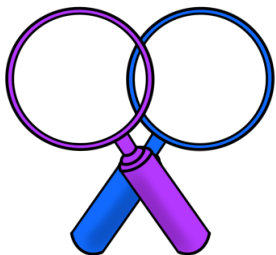
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Dad and Krystal were finishing up a project in the garage together. "Can we paint the roof red?" asked Krystal.

"Sure," said Dad, "Then when the paint dries we can find a place to hang it in the back yard."

What do you think Dad and Krystal are making?

Why do you think so?



INFERENCE

24

Kim turned off the lights and everyone found a place to hide. Nicky hid under the table where everyone had put their presents. He peeked out and saw the front door starting to open.

What will happen next?

Why do you think so?



Name _____ Date _____

INFERENCE TASK CARDS RECORDING SHEET

Use this chart to keep track of the Inference Task Cards that you have completed. Remember to have your teacher initial or stamp the ✓ column.

Card #	Date Completed	✓	Card #	Date Completed	✓
1			13		
2			14		
3			15		
4			16		
5			17		
6			18		
7			19		
8			20		
9			21		
10			22		
11			23		
12			24		

INFERENCE

Task Cards



INFERENCE

Challenge Card

When you infer, you combine what you already know with clues you find in the text.

What did information did you already know that helped you to infer the meaning in the text?



INFERENCE

Use the CLUES in the text to
discover what is NOT directly stated

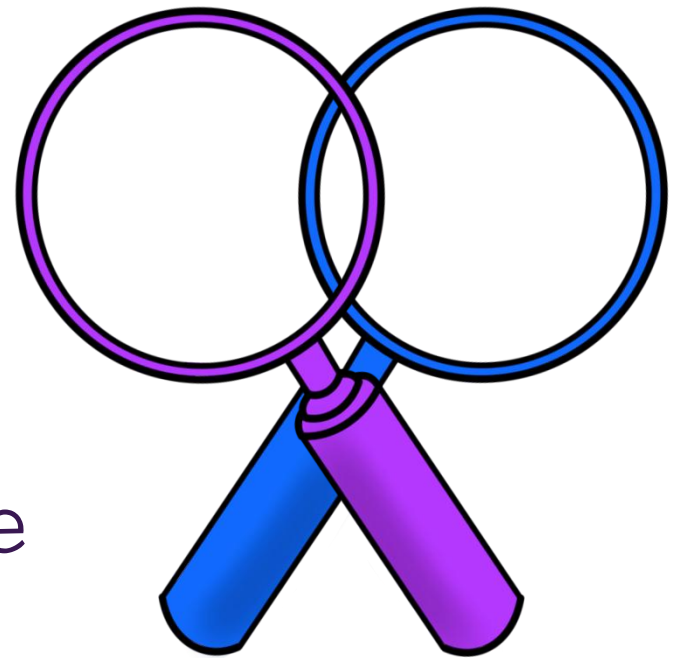
Text:

Ana collected shells. Then
she went for a swim in
the cool, salty water.



Inference:

Ana is at the
ocean.



Name _____

Date _____



INFERENCE ANSWER SHEET (CARDS 1-12)



1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	

Name _____

Date _____



INFERENCE ANSWER SHEET (CARDS 13-24)



13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	

INFERENCE (Set 1) ANSWER KEY



This answer key is for the first question on each card, not the justification questions. In some cases, an alternative answer may be acceptable as long as the answer is plausible and the student can justify it.

1	Katie cleaned up a broken egg.
2	The scout leader was feeling worried because he thought a storm was coming.
3	Emily had not started a school project that was due the next day.
4	Lucy was learning to ice skate.
5	Micah was afraid of the older boys.
6	Jenna went upstairs to check on the child she was babysitting.
7	Ana and Sophie were at the movies.
8	Derek was playing basketball.
9	Jason will give the present to his mother for Mother's Day.
10	Cody is in trouble because he cheated on his math test.
11	The wind storm made the power go out.
12	Sasha's younger brother or sister scribbled in the library book.

13	Susie is the flower girl at a wedding.
14	The bus is coming from summer camp.
15	Carlos was on the Ferris Wheel at an amusement park or fair.
16	People are coming to visit because Rachel's mother has had a baby.
17	The papers were a test with a good grade.
18	Cara was feeling scared and nervous about her piano recital.
19	Ethan was in a hurry because he had overslept and was late for school.
20	Lydia and Emma are playing checkers.
21	The boys were running away because they had hit a ball through the window.
22	Maria did not go to the bathroom because she was frightened.
23	Dad and Krystal are making a birdhouse.
24	Everyone will jump out and yell "Surprise!" because they are at a surprise party.