

Grades 3-6

24 Cards for Informational Text

Inference Task Cards



- ✓ Addresses CCSS. ELA-Literacy.RI.1
- ✓ Great for test prep and literacy centers



Informational Text Inference Task Cards

Use these 24 informational text (nonfiction) inference task cards to help your students draw conclusions and make inferences. Each card features a short, engaging paragraph, an inference question, and a second question requiring students to explain their thinking. There is also a cover card and three challenge cards to extend the learning. In addition, a sample answer key is also included as well as a student answer sheet and a tracking sheet.

These cards are perfect for centers, small groups, or use with the whole class. If you are looking for ideas on how to use task cards, check out this Free [Task Card Handbook](#).

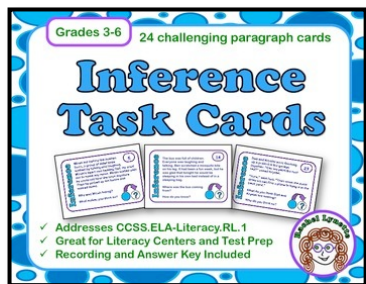
These task cards align with CCSS. ELA-Literacy.RI.1 for grades 4-6.

Printing and Cutting:

These cards were made to be printed in color, but will print out fine in gray scale too. They should print out with even margins around the cards; however, because every printer is different, it is possible that you may need to adjust your printer settings. Selecting “actual size” or adjusting the size percentage should do the trick. Cut the cards apart using the dotted guidelines (discarding the bottom strip). Laminate if possible. Another option is to print on cardstock.

Special Thanks: Thank you to Janine Hogel and Cheryl Fines for writing several of the cards in this deck.

Inference task cards using short fictional passages can be found [here](#).



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Info Inference

1

Asteroids are large objects in our solar system that orbit the sun. They are made from rock and metal. Some are so large they have moons just like planets do. Meteoroids are like asteroids, but they are smaller. A meteoroid can be as small as a pebble, or even a grain of sand.

Do meteoroids orbit the sun?
How do you know?



Info Inference

2

Over 600 thousand people die of malaria each year. Most of those people live in sub-Saharan Africa and most of them are children under five years old. When people in malaria-stricken countries sleep under insecticide-treated mosquito nets, they are much less likely to get malaria. Unfortunately, only about 5% of children in sub-Saharan Africa sleep under insecticide-treated nets.

How is malaria transmitted?
How do you know?



Info Inference

3

In 1848, gold was discovered in a river near San Francisco. News of the find spread across the United States and even to other countries. Soon thousands of people were coming to California with dreams of finding enough gold to make themselves rich. By 1855, the California gold rush was over.

How long did the gold rush last?
How do you know?



Info Inference

4

There are 150 species of monkeys. New world monkeys, like spider monkeys, tamarins, and capuchins, live in the Americas. They often have prehensile tails that they can use to grip branches. Old World monkeys, like baboons, macaques, and colobus monkeys, live in Africa and Asia. Old World monkeys do not have prehensile tails.

Do monkeys in Ethiopia hang from trees by their tails?
How do you know?



Info Inference

5

The Great Salt Lake in Utah is even saltier than the ocean. The salt comes from minerals in the rivers and streams that feed into the lake. The lake has no outlet, so the salt continues to collect. Because it is so salty only brine shrimp, brine flies, and algae can live there. However, many birds come to the lake to feast on these animals.

Would the Great Salt Lake be a good place to go fishing?

Why or why not?



Info Inference

6

The first time a human walked on the moon was on July 20, 1969. After a journey from Earth of four days, astronaut Neil Armstrong climbed out of the lunar module. As he stepped onto the surface of the moon, Armstrong said these famous words, "That's one step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

What did Armstrong mean by, "one giant leap for mankind"?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

7

Construction on the White House began in 1793. It was ready for its first resident in 1800. President Washington oversaw the construction, but he never lived there. The first president to live in the White House was John Adams, who became president in 1797. Since then, every US president has lived in the White House.

Why didn't President Washington live in the White House?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

8

Ants communicate using special scents called pheromones. For example, a scout ant will leave the nest to find food. When she finds something good to eat, she will eat a small amount and then go straight back to the nest. She will leave a trail of pheromones along the way.

Why does the scout ant leave a trail of pheromones?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

9

Salamanders are a kind of amphibian. Amphibians are cold-blooded animals that can live both on the land and in the water. Salamanders hatch from eggs in the water. Like frogs, they are called tadpoles and have gills. When they grow into adults, they develop legs and lungs, and start living on the land. A newt is a kind of salamander.

Are newts amphibians?
How do you know?



Info Inference

10

According to Chinese legend, Empress Leizu discovered silk nearly 5,000 years ago. There are several versions of the story. In one of them, the empress was having tea in the garden when a silkworm cocoon fell into her tea cup from a nearby mulberry tree. Leizu noticed how the hot water in her cup caused fine threads to separate from the cocoon. She collected more threads and found a way to weave them into cloth.

Do we know who discovered silk?
What makes you think so?



Info Inference

11

Have you ever wondered how a submarine works? Submarines have large ballast tanks. When they are floating on the surface, the tanks are full of air. When sea water is pumped into the tanks, the submarine begins to sink. The more water that is pumped in, the deeper the submarine goes.

What do you think happens to make a submarine rise to the surface again?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

12

Hurricanes are tropical storms that produce extremely powerful winds and heavy rain. In addition, they can create tornadoes, high waves, and intense flooding. Hurricanes form over warm water and use the warmth of the water as their source of energy. Coastal regions are at the highest risk for suffering damage from hurricanes.

Why do hurricanes lose strength as they move over land?

How do you know?



Info Inference

13

Even though the United States abolished slavery hundreds of years ago, slavery still exists in other parts of the world. One industry which uses child slaves is cocoa/chocolate farming. In several countries, stealing or buying children to use as farm workers is common practice. Chocolate that is certified “Fair Trade” has not been farmed by slaves.

Why might it cost more to purchase Fair Trade chocolate?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

14

Our emotional state has a lot to do with our ability to learn. Having fun increases our ability to learn and to store new information. Research shows that chemicals in the brain which are released when a person has fun are actually the same chemicals required for learning! On the other hand, chemicals produced when we are under stress make it difficult to learn new information.

Are fun classroom activities a waste of time?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

15

The color of an animal's fur, skin, feathers, or scales can help it to survive. Some animals, such as deer and antelope blend into their environment, making it harder for predators to see them. Other animals have bright colors and markings to warn predators that they are poisonous or bad-tasting.

Why do you think snowshoe hares turn white in the winter?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

16

Children hear tens of thousands of hours of their first language before they even begin school. Research has shown that humans learn language most easily while they are still young. Many teenaged immigrants only hear English at school. Often, time outside of the classroom is spent within their own cultural community, and speaking their first language.

Why is it difficult for teenaged immigrants to learn English?

How do you know?



Info Inference

17

There are 42 species of dolphins. Most live in saltwater, but a few live in fresh water. Dolphin babies are called calves. Calves are born live and nurse from their mothers. Dolphins are social animals and live in groups called pods. They are also quite intelligent. Dolphins talk to each other in squawks, whistles, clicks and squeaks.

Are dolphins fish?
How do you know?



Info Inference

18

Even though many people may think honeybees are scary and annoying, they are an important part of how we grow food in the U.S. Through bees' pollination, plants can grow seeds and fruit. Nearly 100 commercial crops depend on honeybees for pollination. Over the past ten years, millions of honeybees have disappeared. Scientists have been researching how to save the bees.

What could happen to U.S. crops without honeybees?
How do you know?



Info Inference

19

Some people are allergic to foods like milk, eggs, peanuts, shellfish, and wheat. Parents must be very careful when feeding a child who has allergies. It can be very dangerous for a child to eat something he or she is allergic to. Sometimes children do not tell their friends they have allergies because they don't want to feel different.

Why shouldn't you share your lunch with your friends at school?
What makes you think so?



Info Inference

20

A natural resource is something that we use that is found in nature. Trees are natural resources because they grow in nature and we use them to make items such as furniture, houses, and paper. Other examples of natural resources include water, iron, and oil. A computer is not a natural resource because it is not found in nature.

Is wind a natural resource?
What makes you think so?



Info Inference

21

Your skeleton is made from over 200 strong bones. It has several important jobs. It gives your body support and structure. It also helps you to move because your muscles are attached to your skeleton. In addition your skeleton protects important organs such as your brain and your heart.

What would happen if your bones were soft instead of hard?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

22

When you go into a dark room, at first you can't see anything but darkness. But as your eyes adjust, you start to see better. Your eyes adjust to the dark by dilating your pupils. This means that the black part of your eye becomes bigger in order to let in more light. So, even if there is only a little bit of light, your eyes will use it to help you see.

What happens to your pupils when you go into bright sunshine?

What makes you think so?



Info Inference

23

A baby panda weighs less than 6 ounces when it is born. It cannot see because its eyes are closed and will stay closed for the first month of its life. The cub is weak and will not start crawling for several weeks. It spends most of its time sleeping and drinks milk from its mother several times a day.

What would happen to a panda cub if its mother died?

How do you know?



Info Inference

24

When Benjamin Franklin was fifteen years old, his older brother, James, started a newspaper. Ben secretly wrote letters to the paper pretending to be a widow. In his letters he was critical about how women were treated. He also gave a lot of advice. The letters were very popular, but no one knew that Ben was writing them.

Why do you think Ben pretended to be someone else and wrote his letters secretly?



Info Inference Task Cards



Info Inference

Challenge Card 1

When you infer, you combine what you already know with what you learn from the text.

Choose a card and tell what you already knew that helped you to answer the question.



Info Inference

Challenge Card 2

Paraphrase the paragraph on the card. Remember to use your own words!



Info Inference

Challenge Card 3

Summarize the paragraph on the card. Try to use twelve words or less.



Inference Sample Answer Key: Cards 1-12

These are some possible answers.
Answers will vary by student.

1. Yes, meteoroids orbit the sun because the text states that meteoroids are like asteroids, but smaller. It also says that asteroids orbit the sun, which means that meteoroids must also orbit the sun.	2. Malaria is transmitted by mosquitoes. The text says that when people sleep under mosquito nets, they are less likely to get malaria. That must be because the mosquitoes that carry the disease cannot bite them.
3. The Gold Rush lasted for seven years. I know because the text says that it started in 1848 and ended in 1855.	4. Monkeys in Ethiopia do not hang by their tails because they do not have prehensile tails. According to the text, Old World monkeys do not have prehensile tails. It also says that Old World monkeys live in Africa. Ethiopia is in Africa, so no swinging monkeys there.
5. The Great Salt Lake would not be a good place to go fishing because there are no fish there. The text states that fish cannot live in the water there because it is too salty.	6. Armstrong meant that even though he was only taking a regular step, it was a giant leap for mankind because it was a huge accomplishment to actually land humans on the moon.
7. President Washington did not live in the White House because by the time it was completed in 1800, he was no longer the president. The text says that John Adams became the president in 1797.	8. The scout ant leaves a trail of pheromones to tell the other ants in her nest where there is food. The text says that she leaves a trail for the other ants to follow.
9. Yes, newts are amphibians. The text states that salamanders are a kind of amphibian and that newts are a kind of salamander, so newts must also be amphibians.	10. No, we do not know for sure who discovered silk. The text states that the story of how Empress Leizu discovered silk is a legend. Legends are stories that have not been proven to be true.
11. I think that when a submarine rises to the surface, the ballasts are filled with air again and the water is pushed out. The text says when the submarine is on the surface the ballasts are full of air. And also I know that things that are full of air float.	12. Hurricanes lose strength as they move over the land because they get their energy from warm water. Since they do not have a source of energy from the land they will lose their strength.

Inference Sample Answer Key: Cards 13-24

These are some possible answers.
Answers will vary by student.

13. It might cost more to buy Free Trade chocolate because the farmers who produced it did not use slaves as laborers. Instead, they had to pay their workers, which would make it cost more to produce.	14. Fun classroom activities are not a waste of time because the text states that humans learn better and can store information better when they are having fun. So if students are having fun, they learn more.
15. Snowshoe hares turn white during the winter so that it will be harder for predators to see them because they will blend into the snow.	16. It is difficult for teenaged immigrants to learn English because it is harder to learn a new language when you are not young and also because they only hear English at school, not when they are at home.
17. Dolphins are not fish. Dolphins are mammals. I know because the text says that they are born live and nurse from their mothers, which is something that fish do not do.	18. Without the honeybees US crops would not be able to produce seeds and fruit. Since you need seeds to plant crops, there would be no way to plant anything, and so no crops.
19. You should not share your lunch with your friends at school because one of them might have a food allergy that they are embarrassed about. If that person eats the wrong food it can be really dangerous.	20. Yes, wind is a natural resource because wind is found in nature and wind is something that we use. We use wind to make electricity.
21. If your bones were soft instead of hard, you would not be able to stand upright. You would also not be able to move very well and your organs would not be protected.	22. When you go into bright sunshine, your pupils get smaller because there is plenty of light. The text says that they get bigger in the dark because they need to let in as much light as they can. In the sunshine they would not need to let in all that light.
23. If a baby panda's mother died, the cub would also die because it cannot take care of itself. The text says it is weak and that it cannot see or crawl yet. Also, it needs to drink its mother's milk.	24. I think Ben wrote the letters secretly because he did not think anyone would listen to a 15 year old boy. The text says he gave advice and adults don't usually take advice from kids.

Info Inference Answer Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

Write the card number in the circle. Then write your inference on the lines.

Info Inference Tracking Sheet

Name _____

Date _____

Use this sheet to record the Paraphrase It! task cards that you have completed.

Card #	Date	✓
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		

Card #	Date	✓
13		
14		
15		
16		
17		
18		
19		
20		
21		
22		
23		
24		

