

Detective Skills: Mastering Inference with Max the Monkey

Learning objective: To develop the ability to make inferences by using clues from the text and our own knowledge to understand what is not explicitly stated.

Read each flashcard carefully. Use the clues provided to solve the mystery of what is happening, just like Max the Monkey does when he solves a math puzzle!

What is an inference? An inference is a conclusion you reach by using clues in the text and what you already know about the world.	The text says: 'Pip the caterpillar put on his woolly scarf and shivered as he stepped outside.' What can you infer about the weather? It is cold outside.
Max the Monkey is tapping his foot and looking at his watch every ten seconds. What can you infer about Max? Max is feeling impatient or is in a hurry.	True or False: An inference is the same thing as a fact directly stated in the text. False. An inference requires us to 'read between the lines'.
Ellie the elephant has tears in her eyes and is smiling at an old photograph. What can you infer? She is feeling nostalgic or happy/sad about a memory.	Zara the zebra is covered in splashes of blue and yellow paint. What can you infer she has been doing? She has been painting or creating art.
If a character says, 'I wish I had brought my umbrella,' what can you infer about the weather? It is raining or likely to rain.	Kit the fox is wearing a lab coat and holding a beaker. What can you infer about Kit's activity? Kit is doing a science experiment.
Why do we use our own knowledge to make an inference? Because the author doesn't always tell us everything, so we use what we know to fill in the gaps.	Finn the dolphin is jumping through the waves and clicking loudly. What can you infer about Finn's mood? Finn is happy, excited, or playing.
Nova the owl is looking through a telescope at the night sky. What can you infer she is interested in? She is interested in astronomy or the stars.	If a story says, 'The shopkeeper sighed and looked at the empty shelf,' what can you infer? The shopkeeper has run out of stock or items to sell.