

Name: _____

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Observations vs. Inferences

It is important to recall the difference between observation and inference in a lab setting. Many labs create observable opportunities in order to model or show a close example of something that we either cannot test directly or something we cannot observe or see directly.

When planning for the Mars Curiosity rover mission NASA could not conduct tests on Mars to make sure that the rover would function properly, so they tested the Curiosity rover in water and extreme heat and cold conditions in order to model what the rover might experience on Mars. By creating these models the engineers at NASA were able to observe how the rover reacted to different situations and draw inferences to determine what might happen on Mars.

Remember when you're observing you describe something you can see directly. When you make an inference you are predicting or attempting to explain what you see.

For each of the video clips shown write down at least one observation and at least one inference.

Wolf Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=937A1ELVyUs>

Observation:

Inference:

Ferrofluid Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXvar-4M6VA>

Observation:

Inference:

Trick Play Video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KON0zJFN9I8>

Observation:

Inference:

Air Jaws:

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<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wic5sMmmU6I>

Observation:

Inference:
