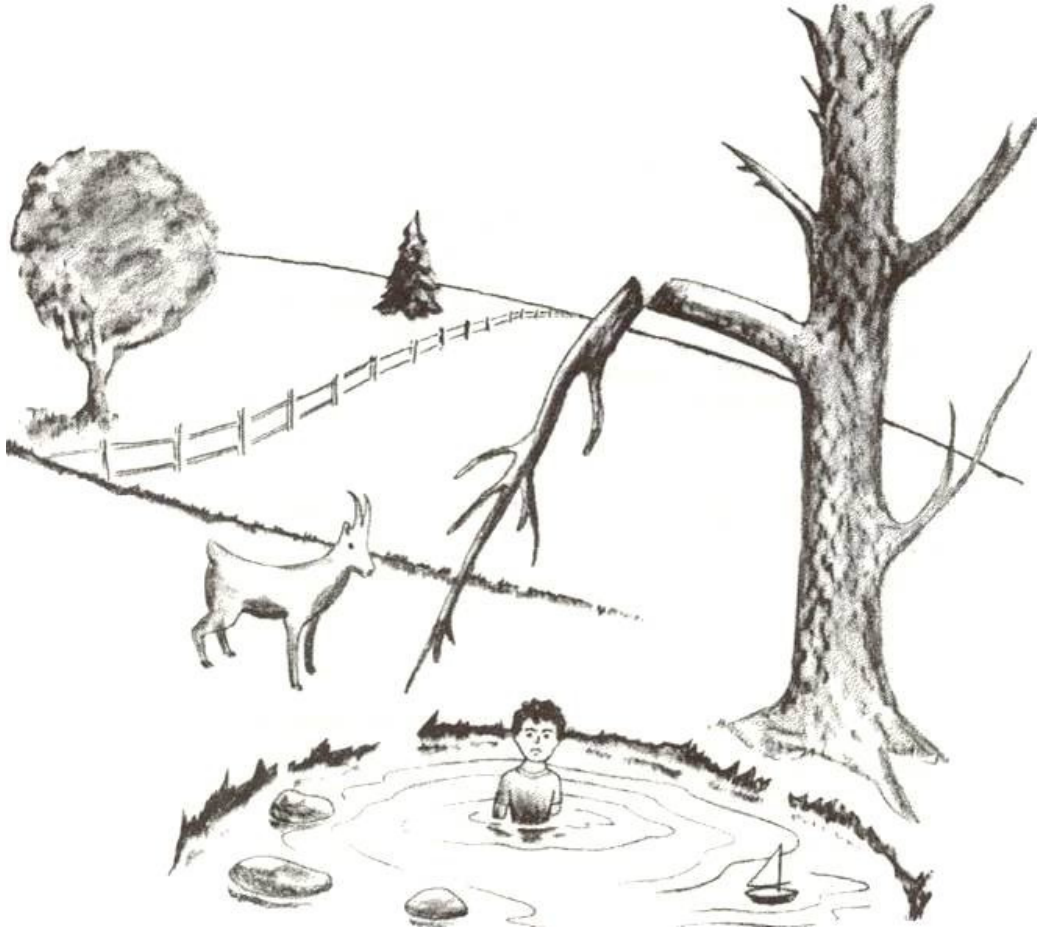Name: _____   Date: _____   Hour: _____

Observations vs. Inferences

Observation: recognizing or noting a fact or occurrence

Inference: a conclusion based on observations

Use the picture of the boy in the water to determine if the following statements are observations or if the statements are inferences. Place an "I" in the blank for inference and an "O" in the blank for observation.

____ 1. The boy is in the water

____ 2. The weather is cold

____ 3. The tree branch is broken

____ 4. If the boy crawled out of the water, the goat would push him

____ 5. The boy fell off the branch

____ 6. The goat is standing by the pond

____ 7. The branch will fall on the boy's head

____ 8. The boy fell off the rocks

____ 9. There is a sailboat in the water

____ 10. The sailboat belongs to the boy

____ 11. The goat will soon leave the pond

____ 12. The tree by the pond has no leaves

____ 13. There are three rocks in the pond

____ 14. The tree by the pond is dead

____ 15. If it rains, leaves will grow on the tree

____ 16. The goat pushed the boy into the pond

___ 1. The boy is in the water

___ 2. The weather is cold

___ 3. The tree branch is broken

___ 4. If the boy crawled out of the water, the
      goat would push him

___ 5. The boy fell off the branch

___ 6. The goat is standing by the pond

___ 7. The branch will fall on the boy's head

___ 8. The boy fell off the rocks

___ 9. There is a sailboat in the water

___ 10. The sailboat belongs to the boy

___ 11. The goat will soon leave the pond

___ 12. The tree by the pond has no leaves

___ 13. There are three rocks in the pond

___ 14. The tree by the pond is dead

___ 15. If it rains, leaves will grow on the tree

___ 16. The goat pushed the boy into the pond

"Boy in the Water" Worksheet answers:
Observation: 1, 3, 6, 9, 12, 13
Inference: 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 15, 16

(although Kevin thinks 7, 11, 15 are more like predictions – but those are basically inferences of the future….)

Good Observation – Inference – Prediction slides:

MN Standards relating:

The student will distinguish among observation, prediction and inference.

An **observation** is defined as using one or more of the five senses to gather information, and may include the use of equipment.

An **inference** is defined as the development of ideas based on observations.

A **prediction** is defined as the use of knowledge to identify and explain observations, or changes, in advance.