

# SCORE IT: Inference

Inference is the reasoning involved in drawing conclusions based on evidence and prior knowledge rather than observation. While some students may be able to practice this critical skill with abstract examples, others may need concrete examples. They bring personal meaning to the situation by connecting it with prior knowledge. Students must use hints or clues in the text, visuals, or data to figure out the best solution to the problem or make a decision. They must dig deeper than the surface detail to get to other meanings that are suggested or implied but not stated directly.



**Science (All Grades):** Understands relationships among organisms and their physical environment



How cattails disperse seeds



How do cattails disperse their seeds?  
Why? What conditions are needed?

My students are encouraged to ask questions and become Science Sleuths. I use photos to show examples and ask students to create graphics to visualize their inferences.

Students must combine the information provided with previous knowledge, experience, and beliefs to come up with the answer. In other words, they make a guess or prediction. As a result, not everyone may draw the same conclusion.

A person's experience impacts their perspective. As a result, it's important that students get multiple opportunities to gain experiences through face-to-face and virtual sharing with others inside and outside the school setting. For instance, students living in different parts of the country could share photos and graphics showing how seeds are dispersed in the place where they live.