

Weekly Inferencing Practice

Use these pages as a weekly warm-up to help children practice their inferencing skills. The level of difficulty will vary according to student experiences and exposure through reading, but can offer great opportunities to recognize gaps in world/life knowledge.

Place these on student desks when they walk in and after a few minutes, students can discuss their answers and how they came to them.

Project the pages onto the board and underline the clue words that led students to their conclusions.

Inferencing Week 1

Amanda walked through the sliding doors. She picked up a basket and began to walk around. She put a box in her basket. She put a can in her basket. She put a jug in her basket. She stood in a line and put her basket down. She took her wallet out of her purse and handed something to the woman across from her. The woman took her basket and counted the items. She put them into a paper bag and gave Amanda a small piece of paper. Amanda said thank you and carried her bag out.

Where did Amanda go?

Inferencing Week 2

Jack felt hot and sticky. Between his toes he could feel small grains that bothered his feet. The hair on the back of his neck stuck to his skin. He felt very thirsty. His skin had gotten darker since this morning. He stood up and stretched. His back hurt a little. He put his towel in his bag and helped mom with the umbrella. They walked to the car. Mom told Jack he would have to brush himself off before he got in the car so he wouldn't get it dirty. Jack asked if he could bring some of the things he had dug up, but his mom said no.

Where were Jack and Mom?

Inferencing Week 3

Maria and Juan stood in a long line. There were a lot of people before and behind them. When they got to the front, the man asked how many people were in their group. "Two," Maria replied. He told them they could come forward. They walked up a few stairs and went through a gate. Then another man let them sit down. A metal bar went across their laps. Soon, they began to go forward. They went up and down and up and down. They screamed and held tightly onto the metal bar. When they stopped moving, they were dizzy, but happy.

Where were Maria and Juan?

Inferencing Week 4

Eliza sat in a giant room filled with people. She listened very carefully as the man talked on the stage. She felt nervous and her heart was pounding. She couldn't hear what he said, then someone next to her nudged her shoulder. Eliza was so surprised that her name had been called. She walked up and stood next to the man. He shook her hand and handed her a paper. Everyone clapped. Eliza smiled her biggest smile ever. She felt proud and couldn't believe this was real. Someone took her picture.

What happened to Eliza?

Inferencing Week 5

Marco cried out. He grabbed his leg. It hurt so much. He lay on the sidewalk. His mom and dad carried him to the car and drove. He was taken to one room, then another, then another. A woman wrapped white cloth around his leg and covered it with a strange liquid. She gave him a very small cup with something to drink. It tasted terrible. But later, he was not in pain. When they got home, dad put the twisted bike next to the trash.

What happened to Marco?

Inferencing Week 6

Derek looked up at the sky as it grew darker and heavy rain fell. He could feel the wind on his face. His dad called to him. Derek ran to his dad and they both ran toward their house. Derek looked over his shoulder and saw a long, thin shape in the clouds. As they reached the house, his dad opened two doors that were almost completely flat against the ground. They climbed down some stairs and closed the doors on top of them. Derek's mom was waiting inside with his grandmother. They waited in the small room while listening to the wind. Derek's dad took out a small radio and listened to hear when it was safe to go out.

What is happening where Derek and his family live?

Inferencing Week 7

Amelia felt herself wobbling back and forth. The sun was hitting the back of her neck. She was still sleepy and hadn't had breakfast yet. Her dad was next to her and his eyes were locked on the water in front of him. Amelia was about to complain when she felt a tug. She wasn't sure if she were mistaken at first, but then she felt the tug harder. She looked at her dad, but before she could say anything, he saw the fearful look in her eyes and reached out to help her. Together, they grabbed the handle and slowly pulled it in. Splish-splash! Their prey slapped against Amelia's ankles. Amelia felt proud when she saw her dad smile at her.

What were Amelia and her dad doing?

Inferencing Week 8

Selena stood up and felt funny. Her ankles were stiff. The cold air bit her cheeks. She grabbed a pole with each hand. She tried to move forward, but fell over. She got up and shuffled her feet more slowly, this time. Her teacher helped her to position her feet. He showed her how to lean forward. Selena felt her body gliding down a small hill. She fell over some times, but other times, she didn't. Her clothes were wet and her fingertips felt frozen. But Selena had so much fun. She told her teacher she wanted to go down a taller hill next time.

What was Selena doing?

Inferencing Week 9

Ming's hands were cold and wet. He could feel the wind on his face. He climbed up the hill very slowly. He could see his breath in front of him. There were some other kids already at the top. He waited for them to go down first. When it was his turn, he paused. His legs were tired from climbing. The sun was getting low in the sky. He started to feel hungry. He had had so much fun, but now he was thinking that maybe this would be his last trip of the day. He sat down, with his legs straight in front of him. His fingers were a bit numb from holding onto the handles so tightly. But he was afraid to let go. He pushed his body forward to get started.

What has Ming been doing all day?

Inferencing Week 10

Luz held tightly to the short wall next to her. Her legs wobbled. She used the wall to pull herself forward, inch by inch. The other people were speeding by her. She wondered how they could stand up, let alone move so quickly. She bravely decided to let go of the wall. At first, she didn't move at all. She felt like a baby all over again, unable to walk. She dug in the toe of her back leg to push herself forward. Maybe this wasn't so bad. She kept both arms straight out to her sides to balance herself. Sometimes her feet would shoot straight in front of her without her trying. This would make her upper body lean back. She had to jerk herself forward to keep from falling down. But she was moving.

What was Luz doing?

Inferencing Week 11

Rochelle's mom had taken her brother to the store. While they were out, Rochelle put cake and snacks on a table. She hung streamers from the ceiling and taped balloons to the walls. She had some music ready, but she did not turn it on yet. When people came to the door, she took their coats and told them to go to different parts of the room. She put some people behind the couch. She put others behind the curtains. A couple people could fit under the table, and a couple more could fit behind a shelf. Everyone else went into the kitchen. When Rochelle heard her mom's car in the driveway, she turned off the lights and stood behind the door. She told everyone to be very quiet.

What was Rochelle doing?

Inferencing Week 12

Keesha stood at the edge of the sidewalk. She moved her weight back and forth from one foot to the other. Her bag was heavy with books and the lunch her mom had packed for her. She looked at her watch to check the time. Had she read the schedule correctly? Some other kids came and stood next to her. They peeked their heads out over the rim of the sidewalk to look down the street. One more boy came running up, out of breath. When he saw that there were other children waiting, he looked relieved. He smiled at them and they smiled back. A girl opened her mouth to say something, but before she could, everyone heard a loud noise that made them want to cover their ears, followed by a huge puff of air. Everyone nudged closer to the edge of the sidewalk, just as two doors pulled apart.

What was Keesha doing?

Inferencing Week 13

Dario and his dad looked at each other under the water. The bubbles they breathed out rapidly floated up as soon as they left their mouths. They looked around at the beautiful colorful fish surrounding them. As Dario flipped the fins on his feet, a school of very small fish squeezed through them, then spread out again. Dario's dad pointed to his watch. Dario pretended not to see and looked at more fish. Then, his dad pointed to the air tank on his back and pointed upward. He motioned to Dario. This, time, Dario came.

What was Dario's dad trying to tell him?

Inferencing Week 14

Malik held two strings, one in each hand. He felt very frustrated. He watched as all of the other children in his class lined up at the door. He was kneeling on the floor on one knee. His back was getting sore. He was sure his classmates were looking at him. He didn't want them to laugh. He pretended to pick at the threads of the carpet. He heard the teacher tell him to line up. He shuffled the two strings again. Which way do they go? Does this one go over, or that one? He frowned and thought about pretending to have a stomachache so he would not have to go out.

What does Malik not know how to do?

Inferencing Week 15

YuMin filled out a piece of paper. It had his name and address on it. He gave it to the woman behind the counter. She handed him a card and told him he was welcome to look around. YuMin strolled up and down several aisles of books. He did not find the one he wanted, though. YuMin asked another person for help, who showed him desk. YuMin pushed several buttons and then smiled. He wrote down a number onto a piece of paper, then got up to walk again. He took a book off of one of the shelves, and went to the counter where he had been given a card. The woman took the card and scanned it, then smiled at YuMin. He was very happy to have what he wanted, and he never even had to pay for it.

Where was YuMin?

Inferencing Week 16

Tyson scratched the back of his neck. Then his ankle itched. After he had scratched that, his elbow itched. He could hear buzzing everywhere. Tyson knelt down by a pile of sticks. He tried rubbing them together but nothing happened. Maybe he should wait for his dad. Tyson sat down underneath a tree. He still didn't have a place to sleep yet. He looked at the pile on the floor next to him. Lots of thin metal poles lay in a heap on top of a giant piece of cloth. How long would this take? Tyson was getting hungry and tired. And his itch was still traveling to a new place each time he scratched it. Tyson grabbed the metal poles. Perhaps he could figure this out on his own. Tyson tried for several minutes. When his dad finally got back to him, he laughed at what he saw Tyson had made.

What was Tyson doing?

Inferencing Week 17

Jenny climbed up a ladder. She had on her overalls, work boots and had her hair pulled back in a ponytail. On her beltloops she had a hammer, nails, and pliers. When she got to the top of the ladder, she looked around. She was a bit nervous being so high up. She very carefully stepped off the ladder. Because she was not on a flat surface, she had to bend one knee more than the other. Jenny knelt down and grabbed a loose tile. She yanked at it with her pliers, then put it back in the position where it belonged. Jenny hammered the tile until it was fixed in place. She did this with three more tiles. Jenny wiped the sweat from her forehead, carefully edged herself back toward the ladder, and slowly climbed down. She looked up and felt proud of her work.

What was Jenny doing?

Inferencing Week 18

Page held a small piece of paper in her hands. She stood in a long line, dragging a heavy object behind her. She slowly edged forward each time someone in front of her moved. Page placed her things onto a table and walked through a doorway that had no walls around it. On the other side of the doorway, she took her things back. Page dragged them down long, crowded halls that were wider than her house. She finally reached a group of chairs and sat down. When she heard something announced, Page gathered her things again and stood in a smaller line. She held out her paper and was allowed to go through a very narrow tunnel. She squeezed past rows of seats to put her belongings onto a shelf above her seat. Sitting down, Page finally felt relaxed.

What was Page doing?

Inferencing Week 19

Ryan sat on a bench. He watched his friends and waited patiently. Finally, it was his turn. He walked up to his spot. His hands were sweaty. They clenched tightly and felt sore from holding on so much. He hunched over and stared straight in front of him. Would he be able to get it? He hoped so and tried to concentrate. There were noises all around him, though. People were cheering, laughing, eating and singing. But he couldn't pay attention to them. He had to watch the kid in front of him. Ryan's arms swung back and then forward again. There was a loud CRACK! He did it! Ryan reminded himself to start moving. He ran as fast as his legs could carry him. Would the boy he was running toward try to stop him? He slid forward and landed just in time. The boy was not able to stop him.

What was Ryan doing?

Inferencing Week 20

Clara gathered several items onto the counter. She looked carefully at a book. Would this turn out the way she hoped? She got several cups and spoons and used them to take things out of their containers and put them in a bowl. Clara held a spoon and swirled it around and around and poured it out. She carefully laid everything out nicely so it would look pretty. Clara slowly and carefully carried her tray upstairs. She opened a door and crept into the room. She placed the tray onto a table and put a note and flower next to it. She smiled at the woman sleeping. Clara couldn't wait for her to wake up and see what was there.

What did Clara do?

Inferencing Week 21

Rina and her little brother Kenji grabbed an object and walked outside their house. Rina hit the object against the floor several times. It came back up every time. She began to run away from Kenji while she did this. Kenji ran after her and reached his hand out. He pushed it in a different direction while it was coming up. He moved his body between Rina and the object. Then Kenji paused, bent his knees, and threw the object up in the air. He and Rina both followed it with their eyes, then Kenji jumped up excitedly while Rina grunted.

What were Rina and Kenji doing?

Inferencing Week 22

Isaiah put on jeans, a loose long-sleeved shirt, and boots. He grabbed a basket with several small objects in it. He put on a hat and gloves. He carried his basket outside and knelt down on the ground. He used one of the tools to scrape. He used another one to dig. Then, Isaiah reached into his basket and pulled out a small paper container. He ripped it open and poured what was inside into his hand. With his other hand, he pinched something very tiny and dropped it in front of him. He knelt forward and pushed something on top of it until it was completely covered.

What was Isaiah doing?

Inferencing Week 23

Marya ran forward. She stopped, then started running to the side. Other girls were all around her running in the same direction. She tried to get in front of one of them. She squeezed in front, and her feet touched the object they were chasing. Marya kicked it back and forth between her two feet while running. The other girls all chased her. After several seconds, she paused, leaned one leg back, and then swung it forward to kick at the object. She followed it with her eyes, then made two fists and bent forward. She hung her head down and tried not to cry.

What did Marya do?

Inferencing Week 24

Amir looked up. Missy looked back at him in fear. Amir moved forward and reached out both arms. He grabbed onto something, then pulled himself up. He found a spot to put his left leg, then a spot to put his right leg. He reached his other arm up and found another place to grab onto. He pulled himself up higher. He did this several times before he reached Missy. Amir gently grabbed her with one arm, then put her into the backpack he was wearing backwards over his stomach and zipped up all but two inches. He started to go back down the way he came. When he got to the bottom, he took Missy out.

What was Amir doing?

Inferencing Week 25

Marisa and Tonya buckled puffy vests on top of their swimsuits. They climbed onto their seats. A man handed each of them a long pole with a flat end. He told them to push against the water with them. As they began to travel, they found themselves bouncing up and down more and more. Soon, they heard a loud noise. The man told them to duck into the middle and pull up their poles. They felt themselves moved forward and down very quickly. Then, they rushed back to their seats before they began to move forward even more quickly. The man told them to push their poles forward, then backward. Sometimes Marisa's side went up while Tonya's went down, and sometimes Tonya's side went up while Marisa's went down.

What were Marisa and Tonya doing?

Inferencing Week 26

Atharv and his little sister Aisha carried large but fairly light objects. They put them on the floor. They grabbed four chairs and put them around the objects. They stretched a large, thin cloth over and hung it on top of the chairs. They got books off of the bookshelf and put them on the corners of the cloth to hold them onto the chairs. Atharv grabbed soft, puffy things and put them under the cloth. Then, Aisha looked in the kitchen drawer for a flashlight. Atharv got their favorite book and they both crawled underneath the cloth to read it.

What were Atharv and Aisha doing?

Inferencing Week 27

Tyler put his books on top of his desk. He stared at the clock and wondered why school had to be so long. Suddenly, he felt terrified. His book fell onto the floor. He and his classmates all moved down and scrunched themselves up. They moved underneath their desks. The teacher had been standing at the board, but moved into the doorway. She spread her feet and hands against the sides of the doorway. In another moment, everyone felt relieved and sat in their seats again. Some students picked up items off the floor. Then, the teacher went back to the board and began teaching again.

What happened in Tyler's classroom?

Inferencing Week 28

Reggie and Luke felt their noses going numb. They breathed out and could see a small puff of air. Their hands were cold and wet, but they would not give up. Reggie raised his head above the barrier in front of them. He ducked down quickly as a round object flew right at his face. Luke rolled something up in his hands and then threw it quickly over the barrier, ducking back down as quickly as he could. More objects were thrown at them. Reggie got ready to throw another one, but before he could, his face was suddenly covered in a frozen slush. He wiped it off and looked at Luke. Luke nodded and they both rolled as many objects as they could, then put them all in one arm each while they used the other arm to fling them one after the other, as quickly as they could.

What were Reggie and Luke doing?

Inferencing Week 29

Sarah put on an outfit unlike anything she had ever worn before. She looked at herself in the mirror and thought how strange she appeared. She put on makeup that was much darker and brighter than anything her mother ever wore. People would be able to see the way her face moved from very far away. She put a wig on her head that gave her long, flowing blonde hair down to her knees. She walked out of the room and down a dark hallway. There were long ropes holding curtains. She walked between the curtains onto the middle of a large space. Sarah thought very carefully, hoping she would not forget what she needed to say.

What was Sarah doing?

Inferencing Week 30

Samiyah put extra sunscreen on her face and strapped her sunglasses around her head with a cord. She stood very still with her knees bent. Samiyah grabbed a long rope that hung loosely in front of her. No one stood near her, but she reached out an arm to give a thumb's-up. Suddenly, there was a loud noise, and the rope began to tighten. Samiyah was pulled forward very quickly. She was traveling over water while standing up.

What was Samiyah doing?

Inferencing Week 31

Andrea walked awkwardly, carrying something heavy across one arm. She looked around and seemed satisfied. She placed her load down and began to pull things out. She grabbed the first item with both fists and lifted her arms high in the air, allowing the breeze to help her bring it to the ground. She sat down cross-legged and pulled out several more items. Soon, several more people joined her and sat or laid down near her. They all began to eat and talk. When they had finished, they began to toss small items back and forth.

What were Andrea the other people doing?

Inferencing Week 32

Li sat in a chair. On either side of him there were several other children sitting in chairs. He nervously listened for his name. When it was called, he stood up and stepped forward. A person at a table said a word to him. Li closed his eyes and thought carefully. He then said several letters in a row. The person gave Li the response he had wanted. Li smiled and sat down again. The girl next to him was called and stood up, doing the same thing. She did not get the response she wanted and walked away sadly. Li patiently waited until it would be his turn again.

What was Li doing?

Inferencing Week 33

Arif walked through a crowd of people. He found a narrow path and began to walk through it. On either side of him were many items. He took three of them and placed them in a basket. He walked toward a wall where there was a door with a man standing in front of it. He showed the man his three items and was shown into a small room. In the small room, Arif tested his items to decide what he thought of them. He walked out and handed two of the items to the man at the door. He put the third item back in his basket and walked to the opposite wall. He stood behind a line of people who slowly moved forward. When he got to the front of the line, he placed the item down in front of himself.

What was Arif doing?

Inferencing Week 32

Dale sat in a room with white walls. There were lots of seats, but not that many people sitting in them. After several minutes, a woman opened a door and called his name. Dale followed the woman through a hallway. She made him take off his shoes and stand on a small square. Then, she told him to stand with his back against the wall and looked at him carefully. She brought him to a very small room and had him sit down. She wrapped something around his arm and squeezed it. Then, she put something onto his finger that pinched it. She told Dale to wait there, and after a while a man walked into the room. He asked Dale several questions and wrote Dale's answers down.

Where was Dale?

Answer Key:

Week 1: Amanda went to the grocery store.

Week 2: Jack and Mom were at the beach.

Week 3: Maria and Juan were on a rollercoaster.

Week 4: Eliza won an award.

Week 5: Marco crashed his bike and broke his leg.

Week 6: There is a tornado where Derek and his family live.

Week 7: Amelia and her dad were fishing.

Week 8: Selena was skiing.

Week 9: Ming has been sledding all day.

Week 10: Luz was ice skating.

Week 11: Rochelle was throwing a surprise party for her brother.

Week 12: Keesha was waiting for the bus.

Week 13: Dario's dad was telling him his air supply was running low.

Week 14: Malik doesn't know how to tie his shoes.

Week 15: YuMin was at the library.

Week 16: Tyson was trying to light a campfire.

Week 17: Jenny was fixing the roof.

Week 18: Page was getting onto an airplane.

Week 19: Ryan was playing baseball.

Week 20: Clara was making breakfast in bed for her mom.

Week 21: Rina and Kenji were playing basketball.

Week 22: Isaiah was planting a seed in his garden.

Week 23: Marya missed the goal in a soccer game.

Week 24: Amir was rescuing his cat from a tree.

Week 25: Marisa and Tonya were white water rafting.

Week 26: Atharv and Aisha were building a pillow fort.

Week 27: An earthquake happened in Tyler's classroom.

Week 28: Reggie and Luke were having a snowball fight with kids.

Week 29: Sarah was acting in a play.

Week 30: Samiyah was water skiing.

Week 31: Andrea and her friends went on a picnic.

Week 32: Li was in a spelling bee.

Week 33: Arif was clothes shopping.

Week 34: Dale was at the doctor's office.