

Inferences

Grade 4 Reading Worksheet



When you **infer**, you use clues from the story and what you already know to figure something out.

School Days in the 1800s

In the 1800s, many children in the United States didn't go to school for an entire school year like children do now. In rural areas, which were areas far from cities, some students went to school for only a few months at a time. Families in these areas tended to live on farms, and children were needed at home for chores like feeding animals and planting crops.

When children did go to school, it was very different from today! The building was usually very small and just one room! One teacher would teach all the students, no matter their ages. Eight-year-olds and sixteen-year-olds could be in the same classroom. Everyone sat close together at wooden desks, and they used chalk and small chalkboards instead of notebooks or tablets.

Even though the schools could be crowded, the students were usually well-behaved. The teachers were strict, and they expected students to sit up straight, be quiet and pay attention. If a student misbehaved, there was often a strict punishment, like standing in a corner or writing out the same sentence 100 times in a row.

There were also no buses or cars! Most students walked several miles just to get to school every day. If it rained, they were often wet when they got to school. In the winter, they had to bundle up and walk through the cold and snow.



What can you **infer** about what daily life was like for children in the 1800s?

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference

Why Do Cities Plant Trees?

If you travel around the world, you'll see that many cities have planted trees along sidewalks, lining streets and near stores and schools. These trees aren't growing wild. They've been carefully selected and planted and are now cared for by the town and city workers.

It may seem like a strange idea at first to plant trees in cities. Doesn't it seem like trees would be happier in a park or forest? Plus, buildings and roads take up most of the space.

Trees can be really helpful in cities, though! Their branches create shade, which can cool buildings, streets and sidewalks on hot days. Their roots can even help soak up extra water when it rains, which can help prevent flooding after storms.

Trees can also make the air cleaner. Some cities have a lot of air pollution from traffic. Trees take in carbon dioxide and release oxygen, which helps make the air cleaner. They can also make neighborhoods seem calmer and more peaceful. A shady street lined with trees can look nicer, safer and more welcoming than a street that has only pavement and buildings.



How can planting trees change people's lives?

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference

Answers

Answers will vary. Examples include:

School Days in the 1800s

Clues in text:

- Families in these areas tended to live on farms, and children were needed at home for chores like feeding animals and planting crops.
- The teachers were strict.
- If a student misbehaved, there was often a strong punishment.
- Most students walked several miles just to get to school every day.

What I know:

My days are not like this.

Inference:

Children in the 1800s had days that were much harder than mine.

Why Do Cities Plant Trees?

Clues in text:

- Trees can make the air cleaner.

What I know:

Clean air is important for health.

Inference:

Planting trees may change people's lives by making them healthier!