



LOOK AGAIN

by

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Observation is the first science skill learned by us and probably the one we will use most in our lives. It is important for everyone to learn the difference between observation and inference. An inference is the conclusion that we draw from the observations we actually make using our five senses. We use this author's single clue to guess what is behind the rest of the page.

By covering up a familiar picture and then uncovering it a small amount at a time, the observer receives visual clues that can be thought about and used to put together the hidden picture. Each clue should help the observer come to the correct conclusion.

MATERIALS: manila folder containing a familiar object or organism appropriate for the student's age, tracing paper, permanent marker, see attached data table, single-edge razor blade.

ACTIVITY: This activity could be done by young students using one window clue, or by older students using four or five window clues. The windows must be cut out by an adult. Open folder. Place tracing paper over picture and decide what part of the picture should provide the clue(s). Draw windows on tracing paper; decide the order of the clues and number the windows. Keep the folder open; place prepared tracing paper on the cover. Put a piece of cardboard under cover to protect work area from sharp blade; cut out window(s).

TEACHER NOTES: This activity would be good in a science corner. Folders could be laminated first for durability. Older children could choose a picture of a living animal. On the back cover of the folder, they could list the following five questions:

- Who is this animal?
- Where is its habitat?
- What does it eat?

- What is its body covering?
- What is one special fact about this animal?

They could make the window clues help answer the questions. Students could trade their folders. This would be a good activity if a certain group of animals were being studied. It would work well for plants, too.

SOURCE: Deborah Tippins, NSTA National Convention, Atlanta

STANDARDS:

BSL: 1.3, 1.7, 4.1, 4.6, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 12.5, 12.7

NCTM: 4b, 13a

SCS: A1 A2 C1, C3, H2, H4

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The art work at the top is from the original Christa McAuliffe Collection and was drawn by Beverly Noble in 1991.

OBSERVATION(What I See)	INFERENCE (What I Think)