

UNIT | HANDOUT  
1 | \_\_\_\_\_*Observation Notes*

**Objective:** Define and create observations.

Complete the notes below.

**Scientists start an investigation by making observations.**

Observations are a \_\_\_\_\_ of an \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, or anything else that is made by using your \_\_\_\_\_ or any \_\_\_\_\_ capable of recording data. All observations must be \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. They must be an exact report of what your senses detect. Observations do not include your opinion. This can be very difficult to do.

Take a look at the picture on the screen. Read the following statements and put an X next to the statements that are observations.

- There is a chicken on the road.       The chicken is running.  
 It is a very hot day.                       The chicken escaped from a farm.  
 The road has a solid line and a dashed line on it.

**There are two types of observations**

Observations can be divided into two categories: \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. Qualitative observations \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of an object or event.

Here are some questions to help you make qualitative observations:

- What color is something?
- How does something feel?
- How does something taste?
- How does something smell?



Notice these questions are answered using your senses.

Observations can also be quantitative. Quantitative observations \_\_\_\_\_ something about what you are observing. Here are some questions to help you make quantitative observations:

- How many are there?
- How many pounds does it weigh?
- What is the density?
- How tall is it?
- Write your own: \_\_\_\_\_



Notice these questions will be answered with a number.

### Try it Out

1. Write three qualitative observations about the room.

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2. Write three quantitative observations about the room.

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### Questions for Review

Use these questions to help you review the information.

- What is an observation?
- What are two types of observations?
- What do you use to make qualitative observations?
- Is the statement "That dress is ugly," an observation? Why or why not?