



Making an inference

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

Practice

A parent or tutor should read to the student and help the student to record their answers.

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To make **inferences**, you use what you *already know*, in addition to what the *story says*.

Making **inferences** helps you understand a story better.

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Listen to the story. Use *what you already know* to understand the story better.

Sandy's favorite thing to do at the park is play on the monkey bars. When she gets to the top, she hangs from her knees and hoots like a monkey. Sandy also likes the little playhouse in her back yard. She likes to sit on top of it and imagine that she is a pilot.

Use what the *story says* and what you *already know* to pick the best answer to each question.

1. What is one thing that Sandy likes to do?

climb	eat	draw
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2. What is another thing that Sandy likes to do?

color	pretend	turn flips
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Listen to the story. Use what you *already know* to understand the story better.

Kangaroos are very interesting animals. The only place they live in the wild is in Australia. They live in all parts of that country. Kangaroos are about 6 feet tall. They have very large back legs and much smaller front legs. They can walk on all 4 legs or stand up and hop along on their back legs. They can travel across 30 feet in a single jump. They can jump 3 times their height. Sometimes they use their back legs to kick an enemy. You wouldn't want to have a kangaroo get mad at you.

Use what the *story says* and what you *already know* to pick the best answer to each question.

3. Where is one place that kangaroos do NOT live in the wild?

Western Australia	Eastern Australia	North America
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4. How could we describe a kangaroo's back legs?

strong	weak	skinny
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5. How high can a kangaroo jump?

6 feet	18 feet	30 feet
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6. How did you use what the *story says* and what you *already know* to understand these stories better?

(Use the answer key to briefly discuss the answers to each of the 5 questions.)

## Answer Key

1. climb
2. pretend
3. North America
4. strong
5. 18 feet
6. Discuss how we can use *what we know* to understand stories better.  
For example:

- Question 1. The story doesn't say that Sandy likes climbing. But we know that getting to the top of the monkey bars involves climbing, and we know that getting to the top of her playhouse involves climbing.
- Question 2. The story doesn't say that Sandy likes pretending. But we know that making monkey noises involves pretending, and we know that imagining that you are an airplane pilot involves pretending.
- Question 3. The story doesn't say that there are no kangaroos in the wild in North America. But we know that "only" means "nowhere else." If kangaroos "only" live in the wild in Australia, they do not live in the wild in North America.
- Question 4. The story doesn't say that kangaroos' back legs are strong. But we know that strong legs are needed for hopping long distances and jumping high. Kangaroos can use their back legs to hop long distances, and very high, so their back legs must be very strong.
- Question 5. The story doesn't say that kangaroos can jump 18 feet high. But the story says that kangaroos are 6 feet tall, and that they can jump 3 times their height. So we know we can add 6 plus 6 plus 6, to understand that kangaroos can jump 18 feet high.