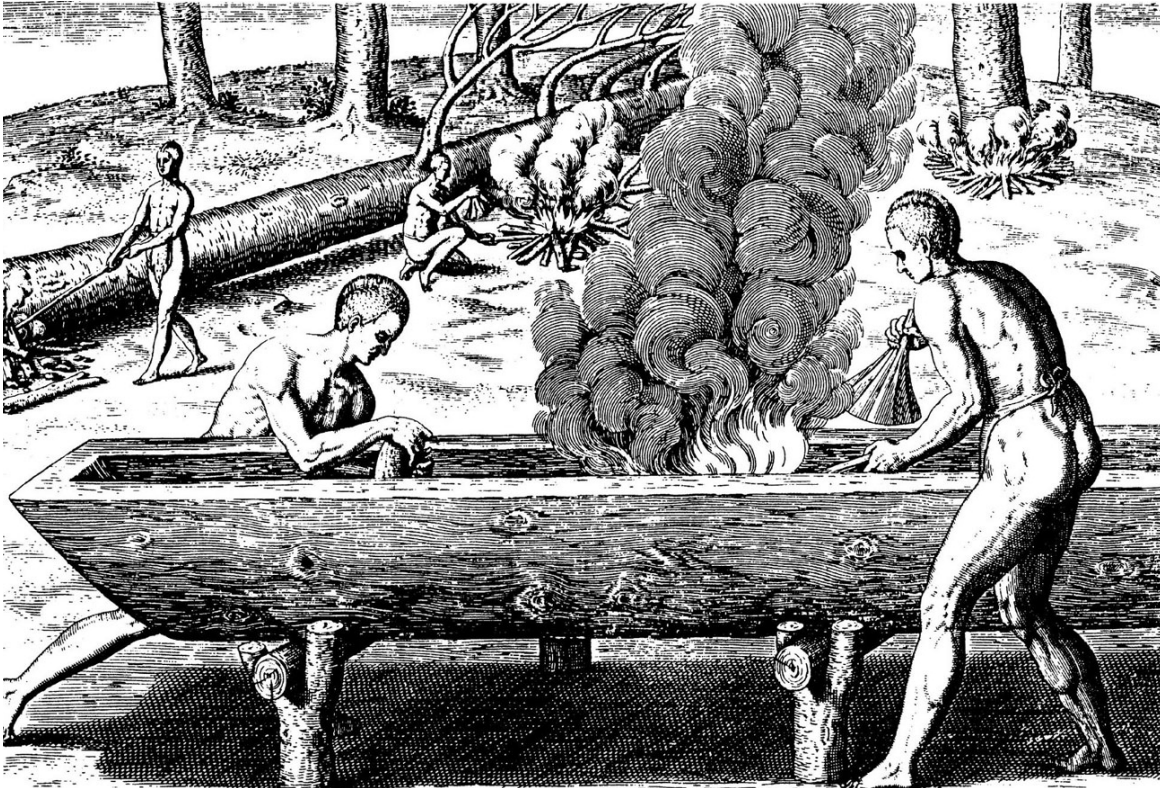


Algonkian Boat Building



Place an "I" before the statements that are inferences and an "O" before the statements that are observations.

- ___ 1. There are four men in the picture.
- ___ 2. The two men near the fires are fanning the fires.
- ___ 3. It is summer.
- ___ 4. The tree on the ground has no leaves on it.
- ___ 5. The tree on the ground is a hundred years old.
- ___ 6. Squirrels lived in the tree on the ground.
- ___ 7. There is a low fire at the base of a standing tree
- ___ 8. One of the men started the fire at the bottom of the tree.
- ___ 9. That tree, like the one on the ground, is a tall, thick tree.
- ___ 10. The men want tall, thick trees so they can build boats.
- ___ 11. Two men are making a long cavity in a tree trunk by letting fire burn the wood away.
- ___ 12. The hollowed tree is raised off the ground by forked tree posts.
- ___ 13. The two men at the hollow tree trunk are friends.
- ___ 14. The men's hair is short except for the longer strip in the middle.
- ___ 15. The fires will burn the whole forest down.
- ___ 16. Deer live nearby in the woods.
- ___ 17. The men are tired.
- ___ 18. The tree with the fire in the cavity has no bark.
- ___ 19. Smoke is getting into the men's eyes.
- ___ 20. The men are close to their village.

What Can You Infer?

Inferring means to take what you know and make a guess.

When we bring our past experience into making a judgment based on an observation, it is an inference. For example, "The caterpillar appears as if it is about to form its chrysalis" is an inference, because you are interpreting observations according to knowledge from past experience. Inferences are important in science in making explanations, but one must be careful not to confuse observations with inferences when conducting a study.

Example: A parent drove by a school, saw a teacher throwing her students out the window, and called the local news. On the evening news, it was reported, "Teacher caught throwing students out school window." Sounds terrible, right? Is this a fact? Yes!

Infer some reasons that the teacher may be throwing her students out a window.

1. _____
2. _____

With even more facts, your opinion of the incident could change. For example, a different evening new program reported, "Teacher saves students from fire by throwing them out school window."

Sometimes someone will try to tell you something without coming right out and saying it. He will *imply* it. When you understand what is implied, you *infer*. Sometimes you can infer the truth even when the speaker or writer isn't trying to be helpful. That's called "reading between the lines."

See if you can infer an implied or hidden message in each of the following selections.

Turner almost wished that he hadn't listened to the radio. He went to the closet and grabbed his umbrella. He would feel silly carrying it to the bus stop on such a sunny morning.

_____ 1. Which probably happened?

- a. Turner realized that he had an unnatural fear of falling radio parts.
- b. Turner had promised himself to do something silly that morning.
- c. Turner had heard a weather forecast that predicted rain.
- d. Turner planned to trade his umbrella for a bus ride.

"Larry, as your boss, I must say it's been very interesting working with you," Miss Valdez said. "However, it seems that our company's needs and your performance style are not well matched. Therefore, it makes me very sad to have to ask you to resign your position effective today."

_____ 2. What was Miss Valdez telling Larry?

- a. She would feel really bad if he decided to quit.
- b. He was being fired.
- c. He was getting a raise in pay.
- d. She really enjoyed having him in the office.

