

Observation Exercise

Name _____

Date _____

Block _____

The primary job of a scientist is to make observations. A scientist makes observations initially when he determines the problems or questions he is trying to answer, and he also makes observations during his experiments to collect data.

Your job:

In groups of 3 or 4, you are given an object. In 5 minutes, you must make as many observations as you can using all of your senses except for taste. **DO NOT MAKE ANY EXTRA MARKINGS ON YOUR OBJECT – KEEP IT AS YOU FIND IT!!!!**

You must be as detailed as possible. If you need any equipment, ask Ms Enders.

Observations:

Sight:

Smell:

Touch:

Sound:

Is there anything about your object that can be measured? Write down the type of measurements you would be able to make, and the equipment you would need to make those measurements, and then do it and record your data here.

Which of your observations are 'Qualitative' – look up what it means.

Which of your observations are 'Quantitative' – look up what it means.

Are there any features of your object that make it 'unique' – in other words, different from other similar objects?

Now that you have made your observations, you will put your object in a bowl with the others, and you must find your own using your observations.

How easy was it to find your object? What made it easier?

What made it harder?

What if you were to do this again with another object that was much more similar to the others and more difficult to distinguish – for example, if you got a brand new pencil out of a package, is there any way you could tell your pencil from the others if they were in a bowl?