



Name _____ Date _____

Make Inferences from Facts

Do you know what it means to “read between the lines”? Everything we learn is not spelled out in the paragraphs of a text. Certain information is hinted at or inferred. When we learn through inferring, we use our process of reasoning to study the facts and draw conclusions about what the author is trying to say.

Read each of these statements or paragraphs. Then, on the lines provided, write what inferences you arrived at.

1. Most serfs labored six days a week on the manor. Jacques and his brother Guillaume were no exception. But their cousin, Georges, was a blacksmith on the manor, and one of their uncles, Auguste, was a miller. A close friend, Henri, was a tanner.

2. Even had serfs been able to read, there were no newspapers available during medieval times. In addition, serfs seldom traveled more than 5 miles from their respective manors, living their entire lives there.

3. In contrast to his serfs, the lord of the manor, when he was not fighting, spent most of his time hunting and entertaining.

4. In some places, a serf wore a brass ring similar to a dog collar around his neck. Both his name and the name of his lord were inscribed on it.

5. Some lords provided their serfs with oxen. Others did not. Some serfs could pool their meager resources and buy and share an oxen. Others could not.



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Prepare a Time Machine Journal

Imagine that you are whisked by a time machine back to eleventh-century England. You land in one of the fields on a manor owned by Lord Snootville. The first people you encounter are William and his son, Christopher. They are plowing ground to get ready for spring planting. You are horrified to see Christopher yoked like an ox and straining to pull the plow through the thick, black soil. When you later ask "why?," you are told that they are too poor to share an ox with another serf family.

After the shock of your meeting wears off, you begin to tell William and Christopher about all the wonders of the modern age. They are, of course, flabbergasted by what you tell them, and at first they believe you might be associated in some way with witchcraft. When you assure them that you are not a witch or warlock and that you are indeed from the twenty-first century, they inch closer and plead with you to tell them more.

Suppose you were limited to seven things that you could tell William and Christopher about life in the twenty-first century. What seven inventions, developments, or wonders would you relate? After careful consideration, write your choices on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____

