

Name _____



Making Observations



Never taste anything or put anything in your mouth
without permission!

Background Information: One of the most important skills in science is that of OBSERVATION. Most of the time we think of observation as something we do with our eyes; when we see something, we observe it. However, all five of our senses can be used to make observations: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell.

A good scientist is observant and notices things in the world. She or he notices what's going on in the world and becomes curious about what's happening. Observing can include reading and studying what others have done in the past because scientific knowledge is collective.

We can make two kinds of observations: those that are FACTS, and those that are OPINIONS. Facts are those things that are true for everybody. A scientist looks seriously and attempts to avoid all sources of bias in making observations. Opinions are beliefs based on personal preference.

As you make observations, you may begin to ask questions about those observations.

Materials:

1 piece of candy	Ruler	Triple Beam Balance
Hand lens		

Procedure:

1. You will be given piece of candy. Keep the candy wrapped until instructed to do otherwise.
2. Use your sense of **TOUCH** to observe the candy.
3. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.

4. Use your sense of **SIGHT** to observe the candy.
5. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.

6. Use your sense of **SMELL** to observe the candy.

7. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.

8. Use the tools at your table to make at least 3 other observations.

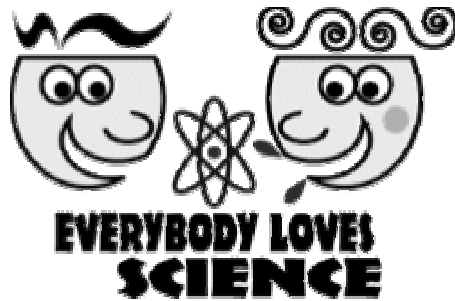
9. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.

10. Unwrap the candy and put it in your mouth. Use your sense of **HEARING** as you do so.

11. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.

12. _____

13. Use your sense of **TASTE** to make observations.
14. Write at least three sentences describing what you observed.



15. Fill in the chart below to show which of your observations were **FACTS** and which were **OPINIONS**:

Observations:

Sense	Fact Observations	Opinion Observations
Touch		
Hearing		
Sight		
Smell		
Taste		

Questions:

1. Explain why using tools to make observations is useful to scientists.

2. Which of the senses was best for making observations about the candy? Explain your answer.

3. Is the sense listed above always the best one to use? Why or why not? Given an example to support what you say.

4. Based on your observations, write at least three different questions about your candy:
