Infer

Primary cognitive verb toolkit

What is inferring?

To infer is to draw a conclusion based on reasoning and evidence. When making inferences, information at hand is analysed for any patterns or connections that are implied or hinted at. For example, in order to answer mathematical questions, students may need to make inferences based on information they have collected. In HASS, students infer relationships in information to suggest conclusions based on evidence.

If a student received assessment results and smiles, their classmates might infer that they are happy with their marks. If the tuckshop sells out of a product quickly, it could be inferred that it is popular.

This term is described in the notes section of the standard elaborations:

Term	Description
infer	a conclusion reached on the basis of evidence or reasoning

Cognitive verb use in the Australian Curriculum

The cognitive verb infer appears in various learning area achievement standards and content descriptions in the Australian Curriculum. The table below shows the use of infer across the whole Australian Curriculum.

Infer in the Australian Curriculum achievement standards (AS) and content descriptions (CD)																
Year level	English	Health and Physical Education	HASS	History	Geography	Civics and Citizenship	Economics and Business	Mathematics	Science	Design and Technologies	Digital Technologies	Dance	Drama	Media Arts	Music	Visual Arts
Prep								AS CD								
Year 1								AS CD								
Year 2								AS								
Year 3																
Year 4																
Year 5			AS CD	CD	AS CD	AS CD	CD					AS CD	CD	AS CD	AS CD	AS CD
Year 6			AS CD	CD	AS CD	CD	AS CD					AS CD	CD	AS CD	AS CD	CD

Cognitive process

The cognitive verb infer is part of the analysis category of cognitive process.

Cognitive skills to help infer are:	Cognitive skills that follow infer are:
• identify • connect • use.	• appraise • evaluate • propose.

Learning area/subject examples include, but are not limited to:

Year level	Learning area	Achievement standard	Content description
Prep	Mathematics	Students answer simple questions to collect information and **make simple inferences.**	
Year 5	HASS	Students interpret data to identify and describe distributions, simple patterns and trends, and to **infer** relationships, and suggest conclusions based on evidence.	

More information

This factsheet is part of a suite of resources to support teachers in the explicit teaching and assessment of students' thinking. The suite of resources includes cognitive verb overviews, cognitive verb year-level overviews and categories of common cognitive verbs. The cognitive verbs are categorised using Marzano and Kendall's (2007) four levels of cognitive process: retrieval, comprehension, analysis and knowledge utilisation.

The suite of resources can be found here: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/p-10/aciq/frequently-used-resources/cognitive-verbs.

Reference: Marzano, R & Kendall, J 2007, *The New Taxonomy of Educational Objectives*, Corwin Press, Thousand Oaks, CA.