

# Inferences

## Grade 4 Reading Worksheet



When you **infer**, you use clues from the story and what you already know to figure something out.

### Cactus Survival

Cactuses (also called cacti) are unique plants that grow in dry deserts. In these environments, rain rarely falls and temperatures are very extreme. Cactuses have special features that help them survive these difficult conditions!

Did you know that cactuses can store water inside their thick stems? Cactus roots spread out wide near the surface of the soil so they can soak up as much water as possible when it rains. Then the cactus uses this stored water as slowly as it can during the desert's dry periods.

You've probably noticed that cactuses tend to have sharp spines rather than leaves. The spiky spines protect the cactuses from animals that might realize they have water inside of them. The cactus is also covered with a thick, waxy coating. This coating helps hold the water inside the cactus and keep it from escaping into the air.



Thanks to these adaptations, cactuses can survive for months without rain!

**Why don't cactuses have regular leaves like other plants? Use clues from the text and what you already know to infer your answer:**

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference

## Commute Changes

This fall at Maplewood Elementary School, more students are biking to school than the community has ever seen. Last year, students' bikes could be stored on two bike racks in the parking lot. Last month, the school added six more racks, and they're still all full some mornings!

The principal at Maplewood Elementary seems to think more people are biking for a few reasons. First, the town has recently built new bike lanes. They also put up signs at intersections to remind drivers to watch for bikers. A few weeks after school started, the school also held a special "Bike-to-School Week." During this week, students could win small prizes if they biked to school. After this week, many of the students continued to bike, even if they weren't getting prizes!

Teachers have been commenting that now that more students are biking, more students are arriving on time to school. Those that bike also seem more awake and focused in the morning. Students are arriving in better moods, and parents seem happier too. The school day seems to start more calmly, even in classes that were louder the first couple weeks of school.



What can you infer about how biking to school has affected families' mornings? Use clues from the text and what you already know to infer your answer:

Clues in Text	What I Know	Inference

## Answers

Answers will vary. Examples include:

### Cactus Survival

Clues in text:

- Cactuses have special features that help them survive difficult conditions!
- Their spikey spines protect the cactuses from animals that might realize they have water inside of them.
- The spines are also covered with a thick, waxy coating that helps hold water inside the cactus.

What I know:

Plants with regular leaves don't have adaptations to survive in the desert.

Inference:

If cactuses had regular leaves, they wouldn't survive life in the hot desert.

### Commute Changes

Clues in text:

- More students are arriving on time to school.
- Those that bike also seem more awake and focused.
- Students are arriving in better moods, and parents seem happier too.
- The school day seems to start more calmly.

What I know:

Families' mornings are better when no one is late and everyone is in a good mood.

Inference:

Biking to school has had a positive affect on families' mornings.