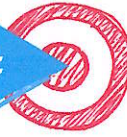


Lesson 3

Using Details to Support Inferences



Learning Target



When you make an inference about a text, you can support it with quotes from that text.

► **Read** When you read, you can look for what an author says directly. You can also use what you already know and details from the text to come up with your own ideas about what the author is saying. This process is called making **inferences**.

You should always be able to support an inference with **evidence**. **Quotes** from the text are a strong form of evidence.

Look at the picture below. Make an inference about what just happened. Then circle any evidence in the picture that supports your inference.



▶ **Think** What have you learned about making inferences? Use the chart below to help you develop and support an inference about what happened to the boy's steak.

What's in the Image (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inference

- ▶ **Talk** Share your chart with a partner.
- Did you both make the same inference?
 - Did you both select the same evidence in column one?
 - What information did you each add to column two?



Academic Talk

Use these words to talk about the text.

- **inferences**
- **evidence**
- **quotes**

Zheng He

by Marcus Lim

- 1 The year is 1405. The place is China, where the Yangtze River empties into the Pacific Ocean. Floating on the river is the mightiest fleet the world has ever seen—more than 300 boats with nearly 30,000 sailors. The largest ships, called Treasure Ships, are more than 400 feet long—far larger than the greatest European boats of the day. The ships will sail the Indian Ocean, visiting ports along the lands we know as Indonesia, India, and Africa. Who commands this fleet? Admiral Zheng He.
- 2 Born in 1371, Zheng He (pronounced Jung Huh) was forced to join the Chinese army at age 10. He became not just a soldier and sailor but also a diplomat¹, speaking with foreigners on behalf of the Chinese government. That is why Zheng He was made leader of the fleet. Not only could he represent his government politely—he could also back up his politeness with force.
- 3 So why did China send Zheng He and his fleet to sea? In the early 1400s, China was growing rich and hungered for goods from faraway lands. To feed that hunger, the government built its fleet. But although Zheng He was a military man, his fleet came to trade, not to conquer. When they left Chinese shores, the Treasure Boats were heavy with silk and porcelain and jade. They returned laden with foreign goods: wood, gold, spices, and medicines. They even brought back odd animals—what we now call ostriches, zebras, camels, and giraffes. Zheng He took China out into the world, and he brought the world back to China.
- 4 Zheng He died in 1433 during his seventh voyage. For reasons not fully clear, a new emperor stopped the trading expeditions and ordered records of Zheng He's travels destroyed. But enough information remains to make one fact clear: Zheng He was one of the most marvelous sailors of his age.

Close Reader Habits

When you reread the biography, **circle** words that tell the roles Zheng He played, and **underline** evidence of how his travels might have changed the world.

¹ **diplomat**: a person who travels abroad on behalf of a government

Explore

What inference can you make about how Zheng He affected the world's knowledge of China?



For the "What I Know" column, think about the roles leaders, diplomats, and traders play in the world.

Think

- 1 Complete the chart below with quotes and details from the text. It will help you support your inferences with textual evidence.

What's in the Text (Evidence)	What I Know (Experience)	My Inference

Talk

- 2 Share your charts. Did your partner provide evidence in "What I Know" that you didn't? If so, what was it? Add details to your chart if needed.

Write

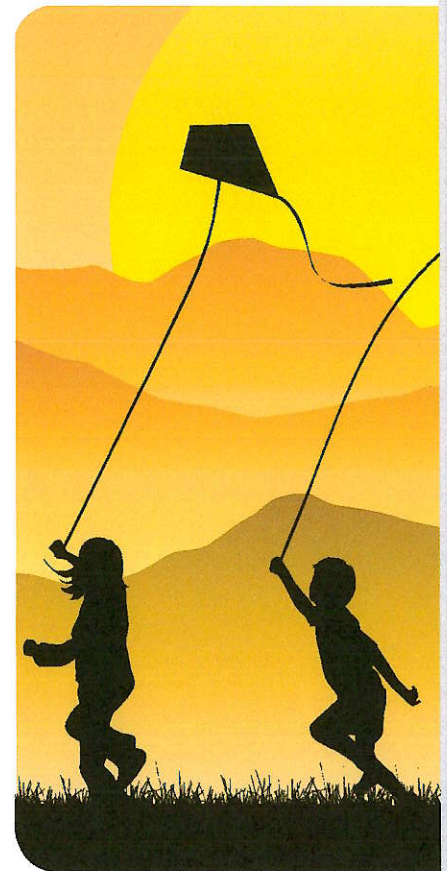
- 3 **Short Response** What inference can be drawn about how Zheng He affected the world's knowledge about China? Support your answer with quotes from the passage. Use the space provided on page 44 to write your answer.

HINT First, state your inference. Then provide quotes from the text to support it.

FIRSTS *in* FLIGHT

by Edward Castillo

- 1 People have dreamed of flying since the beginning of time. An ancient Greek myth tells of a boy and his father who flew with wings made of wax and feathers. But the invention of the kite marks the true beginning of flight history. Kites were first flown in China around 400 B.C.E. Around that time, people began to study the science of flight.
- 2 For centuries, inventors built mechanical wings, attaching them to their arms. These efforts failed, but people still searched for ways to fly. During the 1480s, Leonardo da Vinci made more than 100 sketches of flying machines, which would later influence other inventors.
- 3 In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers built the first hot-air balloon. The balloon's passengers were a sheep, a rooster, and a duck. The brothers solved the problem of lift, but the balloon did not allow riders to move forward or steer.
- 4 In the 1850s, George Cayley hoped to achieve controlled flight. His glider designs shaped the work of Otto Lilienthal. In 1891, Lilienthal became the first person to launch a manned glider. He wrote a book about his experiments, which inspired two brothers from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright.
- 5 The Wright brothers tested many flight theories with balloons and kites. Their 1902 *Wright Glider* could be controlled with a movable tail. But their greatest accomplishment was adding an engine to lift their glider into the air.
- 6 On December 17, 1903, at Kill Devil Hills in North Carolina, the *Wright Flyer* first flew. Orville Wright was the first to successfully pilot a motorized flight.



Close Reader Habits

Do the ideas and actions of inventors influence other, later inventors?
Reread the article.

Underline details that tell how some inventors influence other inventors.



Use quotes to support your inferences. Otherwise, your inferences will seem like guesses.

Think Use what you learned from reading the history article to respond to the following questions.

1 This question has two parts. Answer Part A. Then answer Part B.

Part A

Which inference is **best** supported by the passage?

- A** Inventors learn from the work of others.
- B** Inventing is much easier than it used to be.
- C** Most inventors try to keep their ideas from being stolen.
- D** Some inventors are geniuses who don't need help from others.

Part B

Which **two** sentences from the text **best** illustrate the inference in Part A?

- A** "People have dreamed of flying since the beginning of time."
- B** "In 1783, the Montgolfier brothers built the first hot-air balloon."
- C** "His glider designs shaped the work of Otto Lilienthal."
- D** "In 1891, Lilienthal became the first person to launch a manned glider."
- E** "He wrote a book about his experiments, which inspired two brothers from Ohio, Orville and Wilbur Wright."
- F** "Orville Wright was the first to successfully pilot a motorized flight."

Talk

2 The technology of flight improved greatly in less than 150 years. What evidence from the passage supports this idea? Use the chart on page 45 to collect quotes from the passage and organize your thinking.

Write

3 Short Response What evidence from the passage supports the idea that the technology of flight improved greatly in less than 150 years? Use quotes from the passage in your response. Use the space provided on page 45 to write your answer.

HINT First, restate the idea from the question. Then provide the evidence supporting that idea.