

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

About the Author.....	ii
The Value of These Activities.....	iv
When to Use These Activities.....	iv
Teaching Suggestions.....	iv
What Is Critical Thinking?.....	v
It's All About Evidence.....	v
Example.....	vi
Optional Thinking Map.....	vii
Daily Activity Pages	1-101
Answers.....	102
Free Sample Activities	133

Free resource from www.criticalthinking.com. Commercial redistribution prohibited

HONEY, I SHRUNK THE BIRD!

Read the true story below, then make an inference based on the evidence in the story.

¹We know the largest bird is the male African ostrich that may grow 8 feet tall and weigh as much as 300 pounds. ²Less well known is the world’s smallest bird, which we may have mistaken for something else as it flies amid the flowers. ³This is a type of hummingbird which, when full grown, is less than 2 inches long and weighs one-tenth of an ounce. Can you infer the common name given to this tiny hummingbird that is so rarely recognized as a bird as it flies around your flowers?

Your conclusion: _____

Which sentences have the best evidence to support your conclusion? _____

COMMON BONDS

reptiles	teeth	sciences	fungi	astronomers
vegetables	heart	insects	constellations	bones

Cross out the word that doesn't belong in each group and write the word from the choice box that is the common bond.

- incisor, retina, molar, canine _____
- fibula, femur, jaguar, tibia _____
- valve, aorta, tendon, ventricle _____
- butterfly, moth, flower, ant _____
- mold, yeast, salt, rust _____
- Ptolemy, Hercules, Galileo, Copernicus _____
- lettuce, leeks, lime, celery _____
- botany, biology, physics, ceramics _____
- Scorpio, Taurus, Paris, Virgo _____
- frog, turtle, tortoise, terrapin _____

Free resource from www.criticalthinking.com. Commercial redistribution prohibited

FOLLOW THAT BIRD

Read the true story below, then make an inference based on the evidence in the story.

¹There is one kind of bird, found mainly in Africa, that loves to eat beeswax and bee larvae. ²These birds are experts at finding bee hives, but they can't break into the bee hives to get at the beeswax and larvae on their own. ³What they do when they locate a hive is to perch near the hive and chirp excitedly. ⁴Honey-loving mammals, with the strength to break into bee hives, hear the bird chirping, come along, break open the hive, and eat all the honey. ⁵The bird then swoops in and eats the beeswax and the bee larvae and everyone is happy except for the bees. Can you infer the common name of this clever bird that gets its name because it shows honey-loving mammals where to find their favorite food?

Your conclusion: _____

Which sentence has the best evidence to support your conclusion? _____

THE TIMELINE GAME

Using the clues, cross out each wrong answer to match each scientist with his invention, and the year of the invention.

Benjamin Holt	Georges Claude	Jacques Brandenburger	King Gillette
1901	1901	1901	1901
1904	1904	1904	1904
1910	1910	1910	1910
1911	1911	1911	1911
bulldozer	bulldozer	bulldozer	bulldozer
cellophane	cellophane	cellophane	cellophane
disposable razor	disposable razor	disposable razor	disposable razor
neon lamp	neon lamp	neon lamp	neon lamp

1. Holt's invention came three years after Gillette's, and, of course, Claude did not make the most recent invention.
2. The disposable razor was invented first, cellophane was invented last and the neon lamp wasn't invented in 1904.

Holt		
Claude		
Brandenburger		
Gillette		

Free resource from www.criticalthinking.com. Commercial redistribution prohibited