NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ HOUR \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**CH 1 NOTES #2a**

**OBSERVATION AND INFERENCES**

How do biologists study living things? By making observations!



**Observations** - information that is collected using our five senses. Only facts!

***EX of a good written observation:***

The item is a dark green color, has jagged edges, has around 30 light lines that stretch out

in braches on the top, feels like sandpaper, has a slight fruity odor, and is oval-shaped.

It is 14 cm across and 12 cm long. It weighs 24.25 grams.

2 types of observations:

1. **Qualitative** = word description of something; no numbers

EX: the flower is pink with yellow spots

there is a strong odor from the animal

the skin has a red, circular rash

it has a rough texture

2. **Quantative** = observations that use numbers

EX: 2 inches, 3.1 grams, 10 feet, 2 wings, 4000 mL, 4 seconds

forty-three centimeters, six legs

We use observations to: draw conclusions, make predictions, and answer questions.

* **Inference** – what you conclude based on your observations. You do not directly observe it.

Drawing a conclusion from evidence.

