

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Inferences

What does it mean to make an inference? It means that you use clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

**Directions:** Read the excerpts from "How Candy Conquered America" and "This Cupcake Is Trying to Hurt You" below. Think about the questions in small type on the sides. Then make inferences to answer the questions below the excerpts.

1. Consider this excerpt from page 25 of "How Candy Conquered America":

Many scientists believed that candy was just as  
healthful as steak and potatoes or fish and broccoli.  
Candy companies wanted people to believe this too.

Why would candy  
companies care what  
people believe about  
candy?

**What can you infer about candymakers' motives? Explain.**

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2. Read this excerpt from page 25 of "How Candy Conquered America":

In 2009, the makers of Necco Wafers decided to make  
them healthier. They removed the chemical flavorings  
and colors.

Big mistake! Loyal customers were furious. Sales  
dropped 35 percent, and the company decided to  
return to the original formula.

What does this  
say about how the  
healthier Necco  
Wafers tasted?

Why would  
customers be  
furious about this?

**What can you infer about how people felt about the original Necco Wafers compared with the new wafers? What do you think this says about people and change? Explain.**

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# Exploring Text Features

Authors use text features to bring attention to important details. In a nonfiction article, text features include titles, subheadings, photos, captions, charts, and maps.

**Directions:** Answer the questions below to help you explore the text features in "How Candy Conquered America" and "This Cupcake is Trying to Hurt You."

1. Look at the image and read the title and subheading on pages 22–23. How do the title, subheading, and image convey what the article is going to be about?

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2. How do the image and caption on page 24 contribute to your understanding of the article?

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3. Why do you think the authors included the "Chicken Dinner: Good Candy" image?

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4. What is surprising about the juxtaposition of the cupcake image with the title and subheading on page 26?

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5. What does the infographic "Where Does Sugar Hide?" on page 28 add to the article?

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