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# Drawing Conclusions

Writers may also give you pieces of information that you can put together to determine other facts. When you do that, you are **drawing conclusions** or **making generalizations**.

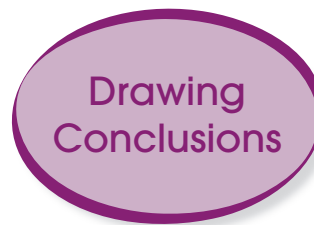
Read the passage. Then answer the question that follows.

The kelpie is a medium-sized breed of dog that works with sheep ranchers in Australia. To keep a flock of sheep together, a kelpie will circle it. If a sheep starts to stray, the kelpie bends down close to the ground and looks at it in a certain way. This is called the “using eye,” and it works just

about every time. A cold stare from a kelpie keeps the sheep from running off. And if circling and staring doesn’t work, the kelpie jumps on the sheep’s back and barks loudly in its ear. This is a sure way to get a sheep to change its mind.

You can conclude from this passage that—

- A kelpies are good at controlling sheep
- B kelpies make good seeing-eye dogs
- C kelpies do not attack other animals
- D kelpies were native to Australia



What conclusion can you draw from the information in the paragraph? Kelpies have a “using eye,” but that wouldn’t make them guide dogs for the blind (except perhaps a blind sheep). You can infer that kelpies won’t harm sheep, but that doesn’t mean they wouldn’t chase a cat. They are used in Australia, but you can’t conclude from this fact that they originated there. But you can generalize from the details in the article that they are good at their job: choice A.

On this proof chart, write two more details that support the conclusion that kelpies are good at controlling sheep.

Conclusion	Proof
Kelpies control sheep in several ways.	1. Kelpies circle the flock to keep it together. 2. _____ 3. _____

5 In paragraph 1, what does the word *depicted* mean?

- A acted
- B shown
- C shouted
- D attacked

Inferring  
Word Meaning

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For thousands of years, people have watched comets streak across the night sky. One of the most famous is Comet Halley. It appears regularly about every 76 years. Another famous comet is Chiron. It was discovered and named in 1977 and is due to appear again in 2047. Comets have been described as “dirty snowballs.” They are made up of pieces of rock and ice. At one time, however, people believed that a comet was a sign of a coming disaster, an evil star. In fact, the word *disaster* comes from the words *dis*, which means “evil,” and *astra*, which means “star.” Ancient people believed that the bigger and brighter the comet was, the greater the disaster that was coming.

1 In ancient times, how did most people *probably* feel when they saw a comet?

- A angry
- B happy
- C fearful
- D excited

2 You can conclude from the article that *most* comets—

- A appear regularly every 76 years
- B follow predictable paths through space
- C come close enough to be seen from Earth
- D were named for famous people in history

Drawing  
Conclusions

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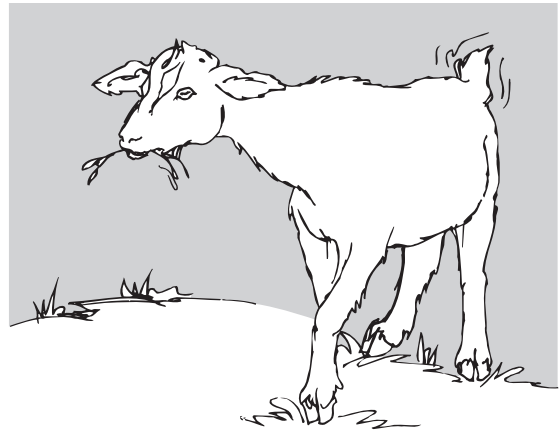
3 Why might ancient people have believed that comets were signs of disaster?

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Above an athletic field on a college campus, a herd of goats is at work. They are clearing a steep hillside of brush, mostly eucalyptus leaves and twigs. If left alone, the dry, oil-rich brush could easily feed a fire in the dry California summer. The goats seem content yet purposeful as they munch away. Their owner has brought them in from a farm on a flatbed truck. They should be finished clearing the hillside by tomorrow. Then the farmer will truck them to another site that needs clearing.



Some people say that goats will eat anything, including tin cans. It isn't true, though they will eat the paper labels off the cans. They eat almost any kind of plant material, including bad-tasting weeds that other animals won't touch. They even eat rope and cotton cloth.

Although most milk consumed in America comes from cows, goats also give milk. In fact, goat's milk is easier to digest than cow's milk. It is made into sharp and delicious-tasting cheeses. Goats are also raised for their meat. Their hide is used to make fine gloves and other leather products.

1 You can conclude from the article that goats—

- A would eat leather
- B are useful to humans
- C prefer paper to grass
- D can go weeks without eating

2 Use this chart to show evidence for your conclusion. Write your answer to question 1 under **Conclusion**. Then, under **Proof**, write three details that back up your conclusion.

Conclusion	Proof
	1. _____ _____
	2. _____ _____
	3. _____ _____