

Making Inferences

In history/social science, we make inferences about charts, graphs, pictures, secondary sources, or primary sources. Drawing conclusions refers to the information that is implied or **inferred**. This means that the **information is never clearly stated but rather the details suggest or hint** without being explicitly stated. Using the evidence presented, we make judgments or conclusions from the facts on hand to form our explanation.

Description of a Civil War Battlefield

Cruel, crazy, mad, hopeless panic possessed them, and communicated to everybody in front and rear. The heat was awful, although now about six; the men were exhausted-their mouths gaped, their lips cracked and blackened with the powder of the cartridges they had bitten off in the battle, their eyes staring in frenzy; no mortal ever saw such a mass of ghastly wretches.

Given the facts above, what else is likely to be true?

Inferences

- It is unlikely that anyone participating in such a battle would not be forever changed.
- For many men, this must have been a battle scar, the most frightening experience of their lives.
- No amount of training could possibly have prepared soldiers for this experience.