Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

Ailanthus Observations, Inferences, and Questions Wk # _____

Examine the plant identified in the picture and complete the questions below.

Observations

1. Make one observation of the plant in regards to size and shape.

_____

_____

2. Make one observation of the plant in regards to the area in which the plant is growing.

_____

_____

3. Make one observation of the plant in regards to the other plants growing in the area.

_____

_____

Observations can be classified into two categories: quantitative and qualitative. Quantitative observations are made with instruments such as rulers, balances, beaker, and thermometers. These observations are expressed in numbers. Qualitative observations are made by sight, smell, and touch.

Use the side of your pencil to make an etching of the leaf in the box to the left. Use the actual leaf and the etching to make additional observations in the box to the right.

Leaf Sketch

Quantitative Observation

4. _____

_____

_____

_____

Qualitative Observation
(non visual)

5. _____

_____

_____

_____

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

An inference is a logical interpretation of observations. Inferences, combined with a creative imagination, can lead scientists to pose questions about the natural world. Use the space below to make three inferences about the plant.

Inferences

6. Make one inference based on the observation identified in #2.

_____

_____

7. Make one inference based on the observation identified in #3.

_____

_____

8. Make one inference based on the observation identified in #5.

_____

_____

The plant in this activity is called *Ailanthus altissima*. This plant, known for growing throughout the city of Chicago, has unique relationship with neighboring organisms. Use the space below to formulate three questions about the plant.

Questions

9. Make one question based on the inference identified in #6.

_____

_____

10. Make one question based on the inference identified in #7.

_____

_____

11. Make one question based on the inference identified in #8.

_____

_____