

Name _____

Unraveling the Mystery: Descriptive vs. Inferential Statistics

Short Answer Key

1. Descriptive statistics summarize and organize data, such as counting the number of marbles of each color in a bag.
2. Example answers may vary but could include using inferential statistics to estimate the total number of trees in a forest based on a sample or predicting the outcome of an election based on polling data.
3. Descriptive statistics describe current data, while inferential statistics make predictions or draw conclusions based on that data.
4. Inferential statistics help us make predictions by using data from a sample to estimate characteristics of a larger population.
5. Descriptive statistics might be used to analyze the average test scores of students in a class to identify areas for improvement.

