This gloomy account of French country life was written by English agricultural expert, Arthur Young, during the late 1700s. There are many facts about peasant life – but there are also many inferences and opinions. A **fact** is something that is proved to be true. An **inference** is something you conclude or decide based on something you have observed.

**Task**

1. Below, underline all **facts** and place (brackets) around all **inferences**.

2. List the facts and inferences you have identified in the chart on the back.

**The Misery of the French Peasants**

*All over the country, girls and women are without shoes or stockings [socks]… there is a poverty that strikes at the root of national prosperity [wealth]… The poor people seem poor indeed; the children terribly ragged, if possible, worse clad [dressed] than with no clothes at all . . . a beautiful girl of six or seven years playing with a stick, and smiling under such a bundle of rags has made my heart ache to see her . . . one third of what I have seen of this province seems uncultivated [there is no crops planted] and nearly all of it is in misery.*

*What have the king’s ministers [advisors] and parliaments [government] and states [government workers] to answer for, seeing millions of hands that would be industrious, idle and starving through the stupid pronouncements of despotism [tyranny], or the equally detestable prejudices of a feudal nobility…?*

*Walking up a hill, I was joined by a poor woman... she had seven children ... This woman, at no great distance would have been taken for sixty or seventy [years old], her figure was so bent, and her face so furrowed [marked with lines and wrinkles] and hardened by labour – but she said she was only twenty-eight... The countrywomen of France work harder than the men, and this, united with the more miserable labour of bringing a new race of slaves into the world, destroys absolutely all symmetry [equality] of person and every feminine appearance.*

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| **Facts** | **Inferences** |
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