The scientific method is the way that scientists organize and track their studies. As they learn and experiment, they use the scientific method. They ask questions and try to find out the answers. You can use this method, too. Start with a question about something that interests you. See what you observe about your topic in the real world. Read about your topic as much as you can. Organize your observations and take notes.

After you have made a lot of observations, it is time to set up an experiment. Make a smart guess, or prediction, about what you think will happen. Use all the information you have and your common sense. Scientists call this guess a hypothesis.

Experiments should be done more than once. Repeating them will let you know what the usual result will be. It is important to take good notes so you know the result of each experiment.

By the time you finish, you will either prove that your guess was right, or you will prove that your guess was wrong. Either result is okay. You are learning how things work!

Answer the following questions based on the reading passage. Don’t forget to go back to the passage whenever necessary to find or confirm your answers.

1) What system do scientists use to keep track of their studies? _________________________
   __________________________________________

2) What should you start with if you are going to use this system? ________________
   __________________________________________

3) Should you experiment first, or make observations first? _____________________
   __________________________________________

4) What do scientists call a smart guess? __________________________
   __________________________________________

5) Why should you do all experiments at least two or three times? ________________
   __________________________________________
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1) What system do scientists use to keep track of their studies? scientific method

2) What should you start with if you are going to use this system? questions

3) Should you experiment first, or make observations first? observations

4) What do scientists call a smart guess? hypothesis

5) Why should you do all experiments at least two or three times? so you can find the usual result