

The Scientific Method

Cross-Curricular Focus: Science Investigations



The scientific method is the way that scientists organize and keep track of their studies as they learn and **experiment**. The scientific method is all about asking **questions** and trying to find out the answers. You start with a question about something that interests you, or something you notice about the world. Then you **observe** and read about that topic as much as you can, organizing your observations and taking notes.

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

Experiments should be done more than once so you know what the usual result will be. It is important to take good notes. 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 because you are learning how things work!

Name: _____

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 scientist 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? _____

