

Name _____

The Scientific Method

Bill wanted a pet. He couldn't decide whether to get a dog or a cat. Read the paragraph below to learn how Bill followed the steps in the scientific method to make his decision.

Bill decided to get a pet. He wanted to know whether a cat or a dog would be a better pet for him. Bill read several books on dogs and cats to learn more about them. He decided that perhaps a dog would be a better pet for him. He called a friend who had a cat and a dog. He asked if he could borrow each of the pets for a week. During week 1, Bill borrowed the cat. During week 2, he borrowed the dog. At the end of the second week, Bill made a list of the pros and cons of having each type of pet. When he examined the lists, he decided that a dog was the pet for him.

The steps in the scientific method are listed below. Below each step, write an explanation of how Bill performed that step.

1. STATE THE QUESTION

2. COLLECT INFORMATION

3. FORM A HYPOTHESIS

4. EXPERIMENT

5. RECORD AND STUDY DATA

6. DRAW A CONCLUSION
