

The Scientific Method

Cross-Curricular Focus: Science Investigations



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!

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? _____

