

What is the “Scientific Method?”

The scientific method is the process of inquiry in which scientists investigate to find the answers to questions they have. All scientists use this process in their experiments to make sure their results can be trusted. This method has several steps that must be followed:

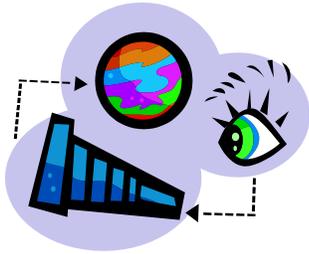
1. **Question-** State clearly and simply what you will be looking to answer by your experiment. Write is as a specific question.



2. **Hypothesis-** this is a prediction of the outcome of the experiment you are conducting. It must be stated with specific facts about your study. It must include “why” you are making the hypothesis:

“I think... because...”

3. **Materials-** List all the materials and supplies needed to do the experiment. Be specific, tell exact amounts and measurements. Include everything.



4. **Procedure-** this is a step-by-step list of was done to carry out the experiment. It must be in the proper order. A scientist makes sure that others can try the same experiment. Do several trials to make sure your results are reliable.



5. **Observations (Analysis)-** this is a report of the data (information gathered). Make it clear and easy to understand. Use charts, graphs and explanations of what you found out.



6. Conclusion- this is a brief explanation of what has been proven or disproven through your experiment after you review the data. See if you answered your question and if your hypothesis was proven. Tell why.

