

Scientific Method Vocabulary

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| 1. Scientific method | a method of problem solving by testing a hypothesis. |
| 2. Hypothesis | an educated guess that answers your question. |
| 3. Question | what it is that you want to test or find out. |
| 4. Experiment | testing an idea or hypothesis through a controlled investigation. |
| 5. Observation | making and recording measurements. |
| 6. Qualitative observation | using the senses to gather information about of something...without numbers |
| 7. Quantitative observation | using the senses to gather information about of something...with numbers. |
| 8. Data | a collection of facts – usually numbers |
| 9. Data table | an organized chart to record and keep data from the experiment. |
| 10. Variable | things that change or can be changed in an experiment. |
| 11. Dependent variable | the changes that are measured in an experiment. Written after the "then, _____" in the hypothesis. |
| 12. Independent variable | what causes the changes measured in an experiment. Written in the first part of the hypothesis after the "If__" |
| 13. Trial | each test performed in an experiment. |
| 14. Inference | drawing a conclusion or judgment based on data. |
| 15. Analysis | a study of the data looking for patterns, errors and meaning. |
| 16. Conclusion | a judgment that tells whether the data does or does not support the hypothesis |

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