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THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

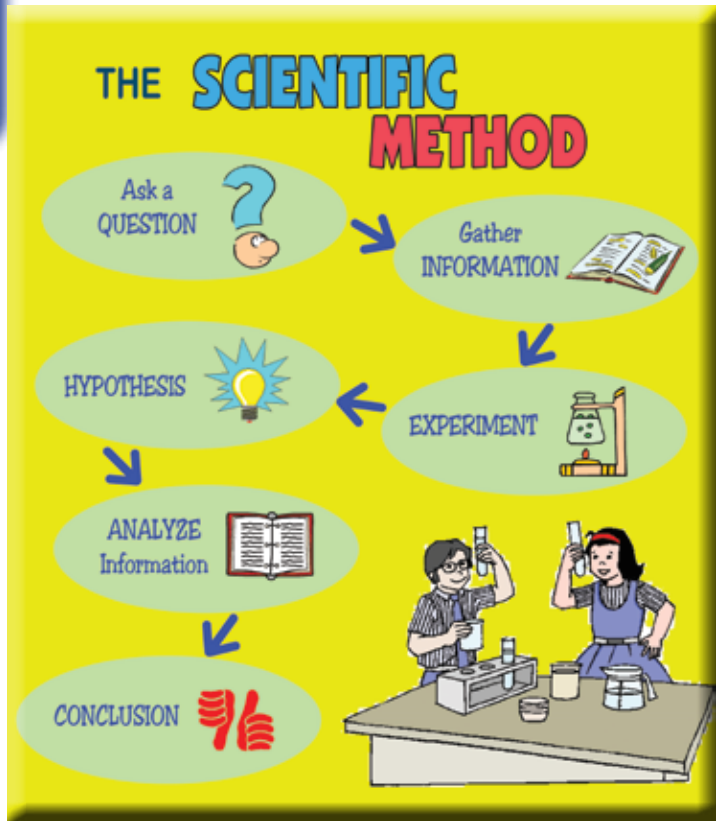
Many of you might have heard about something called '**The Scientific Method**' and wonder what it means. Let's break the meaning of the words down to see if we can understand it.

'Scientific' means having to do with the practice of science. The word **'science'** comes from the Latin word ***scire***, which means 'to know.' One dictionary says that science is 'Knowledge gained by observation.' In other words, we make observations through our five senses and we learn things about the world around us (knowledge). People who gain knowledge by studying or observing things around them are called scientists. The word **'method'** comes from the Greek word that means road. If you put the words 'science' and 'method' together, it forms something like, 'the road or way to study and learn things.'

There are certain steps to take when using the scientific method. The first one is to come up with a **question**. For example, let's say you wanted to know the fastest way to get to your church.

Next you need to observe and gather information in order to come up with a guess (called a **hypothesis**). By looking at a map, you see there are three streets that lead to the church. Since 5th Street is closer, your hypothesis is that it is the fastest way.

To see if your guess is right, you would need to run some **experiments** (or tests). One of these tests could be to drive to the church at the same time each day and at the same speed. However, you would take a different street each day and record the times for each trip – along with any other observations you make along the way. You might do these experiments more than once to get a larger set of answers.



After running all the tests, you would then **analyze** (study) the information you recorded. Your studies might show that there was a stop sign on 5th Street, which added time to the trip. Therefore, your conclusion or answer to your hypothesis would be that 5th Street was not the fastest route. Instead, 3rd Street was.

The answer to your question can then be **validated** (found truthful) if other scientists repeat experiments and come up with the same answer. By using the scientific method, scientists have a way to test their guesses and to double check each other.

Science can be divided into two types. The first is called **observable** or **operational science**. With this type of science, a hypothesis can be tested and repeated in the **present**. The other type of science is called **historical science**. This kind of science is an idea about an event that happened in the past. Because they are in the past, these events are no longer testable nor repeatable.[1]

The evolutionary idea that in the past non-living molecules got together to form a living cell is not testable nor repeatable. Therefore, it is limited to historical science. Because of this, evolutionary ideas of how life on earth originated, are not operational science. Likewise, because the Biblical creation event happened in the past, it is no longer testable or repeatable. Therefore, it also must be historical science and not operational.[2]

Even though science is a wonderful tool that we can use to gain knowledge, it is not the final test of truth. Ideas of science change all the time – especially about events in the past. Instead, the Bible is an eyewitness account authored by God Himself. God's word in the Bible is the final truth![3]

[1] https://creationmoments.com/sermons/can-we-test-evolution/

[2] Ibid

[3] https://creationmoments.com/sermons/what-science/

These 5 scientists are using the scientific method. Find the 18 differences between the 2 pictures.

WORDSEARCH

Look for the words from the WORD LIST below. The hidden word might be up, down, sideways or slanted, but not backwards.

WORD LIST

ANALYZE BIBLE CONCLUSION EXPERIMENTS GOD GUESS HYPOTHESIS INFORMATION METHOD QUESTION SCIENTIFIC STUDY TESTS TRUTH

Q	E	S	N	Z	N	M	E	T	H	O	D	I
U	X	C	C	O	N	C	L	U	S	I	O	N
E	P	I	O	D	I	Z	Y	Z	I	B	L	F
S	E	E	W	Z	E	P	H	K	G	D	R	O
T	R	N	B	G	E	Y	R	Y	O	T	A	R
I	I	T	I	M	O	L	D	G	V	Z	V	M
O	M	I	B	I	G	U	D	F	A	A	U	A
N	E	F	L	D	T	W	Y	S	V	N	C	T
R	N	I	E	S	O	I	T	F	G	A	T	I
P	T	C	Q	S	J	S	X	E	U	L	R	O
Z	S	C	F	Q	E	W	G	N	E	Y	U	N
H	Y	P	O	T	H	E	S	I	S	Z	T	I
N	G	D	J	H	S	B	R	Y	S	E	H	V

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