



The scientific enquiry process

Five stages to answer a scientific question.



The scientific enquiry process answers a scientific question: you put forward a hypothesis, you test it, then you use the results.

1 Question

Starting from a situation, write a precise scientific question that an experiment can answer.



- Is it...?
- How does...?
- What does ... depend on?

2 Hypothesis

Put forward a possible answer, one that can be tested by an experiment or by observations.



- I think that...
- I suppose that...
- I expect that...

3 Procedure

Design an experiment that tests the hypothesis. Write the steps with imperative verbs, and plan the equipment and the safety.



- Take...
- Pour...
- Measure...
- Compare...

4 Results

Record the observations and the measurements without interpreting them. Choose the clearest form: text, table, graph or diagram.



- I observe that...
- I measure...
- I notice that...

5 Interpretation and conclusion

Link the results to what you know, answer the question, and say whether the results support the hypothesis.



- I observe that...
- and I know that...
- so I can conclude that...
- My hypothesis is therefore supported / not supported.



Check before handing it in

- ✓ The question is written as a question
- ✓ The procedure really tests the hypothesis
- ✓ The conclusion answers the question
- ✓ The hypothesis can be tested
- ✓ Results and interpretation are kept separate
- ✓ I say whether the hypothesis is supported or not

