







Parts of the Scientific Method

From your science teacher to help you out!

Scientists spend a lot of time planning their experiments very carefully, and trying to predict what will happen when they do the experiment. All scientists use certain terms to describe the parts of their experiments. Keep this sheet in your binder to help you remember these terms!

Experiment Part		How to Identify It	
ask a question		it asks about something the scientist is trying to figure out; it ends in a question mark ? and will use words like... what would happen if, what could occur if	
form a hypothesis		a prediction that usually shows up in a sentence with the structure... "if ... then ... because"	
test the hypothesis	design a test	this is the actual experiment; will use sequencing words like... first, next, then	
	collect data	the part of the experiment where numbers, measurements, and observations are recorded; will use words like... write down, enter, record, note	
analyze data		comparing numbers and observations, which can involve tables and graphs; will use words like... greater than, more than, less than, changed	
draw conclusions		deciding what the experiment proved; says whether hypothesis is supported or not; will use words like... this proves that, it is clear that, we can see that, accepted, rejected	
communicate results		telling others what the experiment proved; will use words like... we learned that	