

Identifying the steps of the scientific method worksheet answer key

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The steps of the scientific method. Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0) As more proof that there is no one way to "do" science, different sources describe the steps of the scientific method in different ways. Some list three steps, some four and some five. Fundamentally, however, they incorporate the same concepts and principles. For our purposes, we're going to say that there are five key steps in the method. Step 1: Make Observations Almost all scientific inquiry begins with an observation that piques curiosity or raises a question. For example, when Charles Darwin (1809-1882) visited the Galapagos Islands (located in the Pacific Ocean, 590 miles (950 kilometers) west of Ecuador, he observed several species of finches, each uniquely adapted to a very specific habitat. In particular, the beaks of the finches were quite variable and seemed to play important roles in how the birds obtained food. These birds captivated Darwin. He wanted to understand the forces that allowed so many different varieties of finch to coexist successfully in such a small geographic area. His observations caused him to wonder, and his wonderment led him to ask a question that could be tested. Step 2: Ask Questions The purpose of the question is to narrow the focus of the inquiry, to identify the problem in specific terms. The question Darwin might have asked after seeing so many different finches was something like this: What caused the diversification of finches on the Galapagos Islands? Here are some other scientific questions: What causes the roots of a plant to grow downward and the stem to grow upward?What brand of mouthwash kills the most germs?Which car body shape reduces air resistance most effectively?What causes coral bleaching?Does green tea reduce the effects of oxidation?What type of building material absorbs the most sound? Coming up with scientific questions isn't difficult and doesn't require training as a scientist. If you've ever been curious about something, if you've ever wanted to know what caused something to happen, then you've probably already asked a question that could launch a scientific investigation. Step 3: Formulate a Hypothesis The great thing about a question is that it yearns for an answer, and the next step in the scientific method is to suggest a possible answer in the form of a hypothesis. A hypothesis is often defined as an educated guess because it is almost always informed by what you already know about a topic. For example, if you wanted to study the air-resistance problem stated above, you might already have an intuitive sense that a car shaped like a bird would reduce air resistance more effectively than a car shaped like a box. You could use that intuition to help formulate your hypothesis. Generally, a hypothesis is stated as an "if ... then" statement. In making such a statement, scientists engage in deductive reasoning, which is the opposite of inductive reasoning. Deduction requires movement in logic from the general to the specific. Here's an example: If a car's body profile is related to the amount of air resistance it produces (general statement), then a car designed like the body of a bird will be more aerodynamic and reduce air resistance more than a car designed like a box (specific statement). Notice that there are two important qualities about a hypothesis expressed as an "if ... then" statement. First, it is testable; an experiment could be set up to test the validity of the statement. Second, it is falsifiable; an experiment could be devised that might reveal that such an idea is not true. If these two qualities are not met, then the question being asked cannot be addressed using the scientific method. Stop! Before you read on, have you completed the Author's Tone Worksheet 1, first? If not, go back, answer the questions and then head back here and find out what you've gotten right and what you may have missed. If you're curious about what author's tone really is and wondering how to figure it out, here are three of the tricks you can use to determine the author's tone when you don't have a clue. Feel free to use these free printable pdf files for your own educational use, too: Author's Tone Worksheet 1 | Author's Tone Worksheet 1 Answer Key 1. What does the author most likely want to convey through the use of the phrase "ready consent to terms and a couple of coins flung upon the table"? A. The stranger's lack of manners and thoughtfulness. B. The stranger's desire to quickly get to his room. C. The stranger's greediness in bartering. D. The stranger's discomfort. The correct answer is B. The stranger is desperate for warmth. We know that because he's covered in snow and asks for human charity, which we can only assume is because he's cold. So even though we know he is uncomfortable, the correct answer is NOT D. The author uses the words "ready consent," which means "eager or quickly willing" consent and coins "flung" upon the table to indicate a hurried pace. Yes, we know it's because he's uncomfortable, but the phrases indicate speed. 2. The author's attitude toward mothers trying to arrange marriages for their daughters could best be described as: A. accepting of the notion B. irritated with the notion C. astonished by the notion D. amused by the notion The correct answer is D. Even if we read nothing beyond the first line, we'd get the sense that the author was slightly amused by the subject matter. The author further makes the scene amusing by pitting a complacent husband against his busybody wife. Austen depicts the mother as meddling, gossiping, and impatient. If Austen were irritated by the idea, she'd make the mother more unlikable. If she were astonished by the idea, then she'd make the husband act aghast when Mrs. Bennet brings it up. If she were accepting of the idea, then she probably wouldn't have written about it in a witty way. Hence, Choice D is the best bet. 3. What tone is the author most likely trying to convey with the sentence, "It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife." A. satiric B. scornful C. reproachful D. weary The correct answer is A. This speaks to the tone of the excerpt as a whole. She's sarcastic about society's notion of marrying young women off to wealthy men. Her overreaching statement, "a truth universally acknowledged" is an example of hyperbole, which is an exaggerated statement not meant to be taken literally." And although she may personally be reproachful or scornful of the idea, her tone does not convey it in this satire. 4. Which of the following choices provides the best answer to the author's final question posed in the text, while maintaining the tone of the article? A. It could be that I'd fallen into a nightmare without knowing it. B. It had to be the dreariness of the day. Nothing about the house itself was particularly depressing. C. The solution defied me. I couldn't get at the heart of my displeasure. D. It was a mystery I couldn't solve; nor could I grapple with the shadowy fancies that crowded upon me as I pondered. The correct choice is D. Here, the answer must closely mirror the language in the text. The words used by Poe are complicated, as is his sentence structure. Choice B and D's sentence structure is too simple and Choice B's answer is incorrect based on the text. Choice A seems logical until you place it up against Choice D, which uses a complex structure and language similar to that already in the text. 5. Which emotion is the author most likely trying to rouse from his reader after reading this text? A. hatred B. terror C. apprehension D. depression The correct choice is C. Although the character feels depression upon viewing the house, Poe is trying to make the reader feel apprehension in the scene. What's going to come up? If he were trying to make the reader feel depressed, he would have spoken to something more personal. And he wasn't trying to terrify the reader in this scene, either. He would've used scarier content instead of relying on the dark, depressing words and phrases he does. And Choice A is completely off! Hence, Choice C is the best answer. As any scientist will tell you, there's method to the madness. Learn the steps to the scientific method, find explanations of different types of variables, and discover how to design your own experiments. Christos Kalohoridis So you've just gotten to the end of Netflix's exciting new show, Locke and Key. Exciting, right? You may have just finished watching all ten episodes of the Joe Hill series, but as soon as the credits of that last episode start rolling, you're probably got some questions. Our advice? First, take some time and revisit the show's soundtrack—it rules. After that, take a deep breath. OK. Question time, now: first, when do we get more? When will the Savini Squad return? And second: what the hell just happened? And while we don't quite have an answer for you on the first one just yet, we do think we can be of assistance for the second. What's happening with Gabe and Eden? What was that at the end? When the final confrontation between Dodge and the Lockes seemed to happen with about 20 minutes left in the episode, you may have suspected that there would be more to this story—and you were right. As we learned in the closing moments of Locke and Key's first season, Gabe has been a version of Dodge/Lucas (using the Identity Key) all along, putting his interest in the keys and using them (especially so when compared to Scot) into perspective (it also puts his cruelty toward Eden into perspective too, huh? His actually being a demon, and all). A major question worth wondering...did Gabe ever exist at all? Did whoever the woman we know as 'Dodge' ever exist? Perhaps questions we'll find out the answers to in the future. As we learned in the final few episodes, Lucas was originally possessed in the past when Rendell Locke opened the Black Door and he was hit by a striking beam of light. When Tyler, Bode, Kinsey, and the rest of the gang head down, at first we don't see anyone get hit. But a flashback in the closing moments show that Eden was indeed hit in the arm by the blasts of light. As the episode closes and we see Gabe and Eden grinning at one another with enormous breakfasts (like Dodge had when she first escaped from the well), it tells us that going forward, things for the Lockes aren't going to get any easier. Dodge has got help now. What happened to Ellie? After Ellie helped the Lockes, telling them about the past, and Lucas' plan, we saw her return to her house, but never come back. A flashback showed that once home she was actually attacked by Lucas (along with Rufus). Lucas/Dodge used the Identity Key on Ellie to make her appear as Dodge, and then knocked her out, leaving her on the floor of the Key House. That's right: that means Ellie was thrown out into the abyss behind the Black Door, while Dodge runs free. It's scary for our heroes, because it means their biggest enemy is still at large; and they have no idea. Subscribe to Men's Health Subscribe to Men's Health We don't know what is going on behind that door, but we heard in a conversation between Bode and Rufus that people are still looking for Ellie after her unexplained disappearance. In season two, saving Ellie will probably be a major motivation for the heroes of the story. What about Sam Lasser? Poor Sam. The show only briefly touched on Sam's backstory, but he was clearly a deeply troubled kid simply looking for anyone who would accept him. What he did to Rendell was obviously unacceptable, and holding the Locke family hostage was...well, not cool. But his comeuppance, being trapped for (seemingly) eternity outside of his body on the grounds of Key House? Not good. He did kill that prison guard, and probably a lot more prisoners too, though. Not OK. Sorry, Sam. Given his proximity to the Key House, though, it seems like a strong possibility that his story isn't over just yet. What could Season 2 of Locke and Key have in store for Sam? We will see. Evan is the culture editor for Men's Health, with bylines in The New York Times, MTV News, Brooklyn Magazine, and VICE. He loves weird movies, watches too much TV, and listens to music more often than he doesn't.

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