

What Is Science?

Science Words

Say each word quietly to yourself. Then read the meaning.

Read the tip to help you remember.

investigation [in•ves•tuh•GAY•shuhn] a procedure carried out to carefully observe, study, or test something in order to learn more about it

Investigation and *question* end in *-tion*. An *investigation* can answer a question.

science [SY•uhns] the study of the natural world. Science involves making observations and performing investigations.

Science, *study*, and *search* begin with the same sound. When people do *science*, they study nature and search for answers.

evidence [EV•uh•duhns] information collected during a scientific investigation

Evidence ends with the sound at the beginning of *certain*. *Evidence* can help you be certain your idea about something is correct.



The hat, gloves, coat, and snow are evidence of cold weather.

opinion [uh•PIN•yuhn] a belief or judgment

Opinion and *open* begin the same way. Have your *opinion*, but keep your mind open to evidence.

What Is Science?

Science Concepts

Read the Ideas more than once. Do your best to remember them.

1. An investigation is a procedure used to find answers to questions about nature.
2. An investigation may involve observing, comparing, and testing.
3. Scientists look for evidence, or information, as they investigate a question.
4. Scientists draw conclusions from the results of their investigations.
5. A conclusion must be supported by evidence; an opinion need not be supported by evidence.
6. An inference is an idea based on an observation.
7. A person's opinion should not affect how the person carries out an investigation.
8. Scientists communicate the results of their investigations.
9. Clear communication helps other scientists repeat an investigation and compare results.
10. Scientific knowledge grows when scientists can expand on one another's ideas.