

Vocabulary: Pattern Finder



Vocabulary

- Experiment – a test of a hypothesis.
- Hypothesis – a tentative explanation that can be tested by doing experiments.
 - “Metals expand when heated,” “Caterpillars turn into butterflies,” and “Clouds are made of water” are all examples of hypotheses.
- Observe – to gather information using one’s senses.
- Prediction – a description of expected results made before running an experiment.
 - Predictions are based on hypotheses.
 - Predictions are more specific than hypotheses because they describe a particular experiment.
 - For example, if you have the hypothesis, “Metals expand when heated,” you might predict, “Heating a copper rod from 30°C to 35°C will cause it to get longer.”
 - Scientists test a hypothesis by seeing if the predictions based on the hypothesis come true.
- Theory – a hypothesis that has been supported by many experiments.