

What Is Science?

Understanding Main Ideas

Answer the following questions in the spaces provided.

1. What are five skills scientists use to learn about the world?

2. What are inferences based on?

3. Why do scientists make models? Give an example of a model.

Building Vocabulary

Match each term with its definition by writing the letter of the correct definition on the line beside the term in the left column.

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| ___ 4. observing | a. the process of grouping together items that are alike in some way |
| ___ 5. quantitative observations | b. making a forecast of what will happen in the future based on experience or evidence |
| ___ 6. qualitative observations | c. creating representations of complex objects or processes |
| ___ 7. inferring | d. the study of living things |
| ___ 8. predicting | e. explaining or interpreting things you observe |
| ___ 9. making models | f. observations that deal with descriptions that cannot be expressed in numbers |
| ___ 10. classifying | g. a way of learning about the natural world |
| ___ 11. science | h. using one or more of your senses to gather information |
| ___ 12. life science | i. observations that deal with a number, or amount |