

Y5 Working Scientifically

KS2 Y5 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Turn an idea into a testable question.

Step 1 · Idea

'Some balls bounce better than others.'

Step 2 · What will you change?

The type of ball

Step 3 · What will you measure?

The height of the bounce in cm

Step 4 · Write the question

'Which type of ball bounces highest when dropped from 1 m?'

Answer: A testable question names what you will change and what you will measure.

Check: 'Why is the sky blue?' is a good question, but not one you can test in a classroom.

2. Now try one with the steps

Find the variables: 'Does the amount of water affect how tall a bean plant grows?'

Step 1 · Change

Step 2 · Measure

Step 3 · Keep the same

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a prediction?

2. In a fair test, how many variables do you change?

3. What do we call the variable you deliberately change?

4. What do we call the variable you measure?

5. Why do you keep the other variables the same?

6. In a test of whether bigger parachutes fall more slowly, what do you change?

7. In the same parachute test, what do you measure?

8. Name ONE type of enquiry that is not a fair test.

9. Name TWO things to keep the same when testing which ball bounces highest.

10. Tia tests salt and temperature at the same time. What is wrong with her test?

11. Ravi tests 5 surfaces and repeats each 3 times. How many tests does he do?

12. Write a testable question about plant growth.

13. Why should you draw your results table before you start?

14. Why is 'Which is the best dog?' not a good science question?

4. Before you hand it in

Changing more than one thing between tests.

Change one variable; keep all the others the same.

A prediction is just a guess.

Use 'I think... because...'.

Every science question needs a fair test.

Choose the type of enquiry that fits the question.

Doing each test once is enough.

Repeat tests (usually 3 times) and check the results agree.