

The Scientific Method

Mini Bulletin Board

TF8091



Step by Step

After setting up your display, review the steps of the scientific method with students. Then, when students get ready to conduct a science experiment, ask them to label a plain index card with their name. Have students place their name card next to the first step on the display. After they decide on a research question, instruct students to move their name to the next step. Each time they complete a step of the scientific method, have students move their name to the next step, until they reach the last step and have reached a conclusion. By moving their name from step to step, students can track their progress while keeping you informed of where they are.

Questions A-Plenty

At times, students may find it difficult to come up with a research question. To offer some ideas and inspiration, you might want to add some suggestions. A simple way to do this is to write questions or topic ideas on large colorful sticky notes. Then attach the notes all around your display. You might also invite students to share some of their ideas to add to the display. If desired, write down and collect ideas from students over a period of time, such as a week or two, to allow plenty of time for considering and brainstorming possible topics and questions. At the end of that time, post all of the ideas, review them with students, then help them as needed to work through their own ideas to come up with a research question.

Keeping Track

Before students begin their experiments, distribute copies of page 2. Explain that they can use this organizer to keep track of their progress through the scientific method by checking off each step as they complete it. Also, as they work through the steps, have them fill in the sections for steps 1, 3, and 7 to the right of the checklist. Then, when students complete their experiment, they'll have a quick reference to their research question, hypothesis, and conclusion and can see at a glance how these relate to one another.

Displaying and Using Your Mini Bulletin Board

Choose an eye-level bulletin board on which to display "The Scientific Method" mini bulletin board set. Use the display, individual bulletin board pieces, and the reproducible pattern in this resource guide to do the suggested activities.

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My Scientific Method

1 Research Question →

My Research Question: _____

2 Conduct Research

3 Hypothesis →

My Hypothesis: _____

4 Make a Plan

5 Conduct Experiment

My Conclusions: _____

6 Collect and Record Data

7 Draw Conclusions ↗