

NOS Vocabulary Lessons 1-4

1. Science (pg 6) - The study of natural events through observation and investigations and the new information that results from those investigations.

2. Empirical Evidence (pg 8) - Evidence gained from observations, measurements, and other types of data that scientists gather. The data is used to support scientific explanations.

3. Scientific Theory (pg 16) - A well supported explanation for an observation that can be tested by scientific investigation. They are used to make predictions about what scientists may not have seen yet.

4. Model (pg 17) - Representation of something in the natural world. They allow scientists to study things that may be too big or too small to study. They help us to understand past, present, and future events.

5. Scientific Law (pg 18) - A rule that describes a pattern in nature that is always true and occurs under certain conditions. Laws tell you what to expect.

6. Experiment (pg 26) - An organized procedure to study something under controlled conditions.

7. Observation (pg 27) - The act of using one or more of your senses to gather information and taking note of what occurs.

8. Hypothesis (pg 28) - Testable idea or explanation that leads to a scientific investigation. It can be tested by an experiment or observation.

9. Variable (pg 29) - Any factor that can change in an experiment, observation, or a model.

10. Data (pg 29) - Information gathered by observation or experimentation that can be used in calculating reasoning. (Examples: tables and graphs)

11. Inference (not in textbook) - A logical explanation of an observation that is drawn from prior knowledge or experience.

12. Prediction (not on textbook) - A statement of what will happen next in a sequence of events.