

Events leading up to declaring Independence

In the 1770's the colonists living in America had grown used to being their own bosses in many ways. They thought that the British Parliament, government in Great Britain, and its King, George III, were making too many laws that took away too many of their freedoms. Some examples of these are the Stamp Act and the Sugar Act. Both put very high taxes on things that the American colonists used every day: paper and sugar. The Americans had not voted for these taxes. They had not even elected the members of Parliament who had passed the laws that created those taxes. To the colonists, this was "taxation without representation." They thought they had no say in what their government did to them. People who lived in Britain could protest and even choose not to elect lawmakers who voted for such taxes. But the colonists, even though they were also British citizens did not have that option.

The citizens in Boston Massachusetts were extremely upset. On March 5, 1770 five colonists were shot by British soldiers, an event that became known as the Boston Massacre. The colonists were outside a government building yelling insults and throwing ice at the British soldiers because they were unhappy with England's laws. Five colonists were killed including a former slave named Crispus Attucks. Nearly every part of the story is disputed by both sides. Did the colonists have weapons? Did the British commander say "fire"? No one knows for sure. What we do know is how the event ended, the British had guns, and they did open fire injuring 6 and killing 5 people. The Boston Massacre deepened American distrust of the British military presence in the colonies.

After the Boston Massacre, England repeated took back most of the taxes. The King of England knew the colonists were upset and hoped by taking back some taxes the colonists would not be so mad. The King left the tax on tea, the Tea Act. This tax upset the colonists because tea was a very popular drink. So some

Name: _____

What country owned the 13 colonies in America?

Why were the colonists upset at the King?

Name 2 laws that upset the colonists:

1. _____

2. _____

What items did the laws tax?

What does "taxation without representation" mean?

Were the British citizens who lived in England treated the same as the British citizens (colonists) who lived in America? Explain.

What date did the Boston Massacre occur?

What were the colonists throwing at the British soldiers?

How many colonists were killed and injured?

T or F: The Boston Massacre made colonists distrust the British soldiers.
(If false fix the sentence to make it true.)

After the Massacre what did the King do?

What item was still being taxed?

colonists, called the Sons of Liberty, who were men that held protests against the British, decided to dress up like Mohawk Native Americans and sneak onto the boats in Boston Harbor. The colonists dumped all the tea they could find off boats coming in from England into Boston Harbor. This event was called the Boston Tea Party.

The King of England was very upset because the amount of tea wasted would equal up to 11 million dollars today. He decided to make new laws called the Intolerable Acts to punish Boston and to scare the rest of the colonists from protesting. The colonists called the laws, the Intolerable Acts because they thought the laws were so unbearable. One of the Intolerable Acts closed down Boston Harbor until the colonists paid England for all the tea they dumped and another act allowed the British soldiers to move in with the colonists without the colonist's permission. But the Intolerable Acts had the opposite effect. American colonists everywhere were angry. The following months saw the first meeting of the 1st Continental Congress. Among other things, this group of delegates from all 13 colonies wanted to boycott, stop buying British goods throughout the colonies. Not even a year later, the Revolutionary War had begun.

The Battles of Lexington and Concord and Bunker Hill were just the beginning. British and American troops fought all over the 13 colonies and even in Canada. Many people thought the Americans needed a rallying cry, something they could all fight for. People like Patrick Henry were calling for independence.

Summary of the article (5 sentences minimum)

Who were the Sons of Liberty?

What did the Sons of Liberty do?

What was the protest named?

How much money did the colonists waste in tea (in today's money)?

What were the laws called the King passed?

What 2 things did the Intolerable Acts do?

- 1.

- 2.

Did the Intolerable Acts calm down the colonists or make them more upset?

What did the 1st Continental Congress want to do?

What battles started the American Revolution?

Some colonists were starting to call for _____ from England

Use Your Senses

Name _____

Part 1: What do you see?

Part 2: What do you hear?



Part 3: What do you feel?

Part 4: What do you smell?

As your classmates share their observations, cross off any that are similar.
You earn 1 point for each item left! How many points did you earn?

Scientific Method

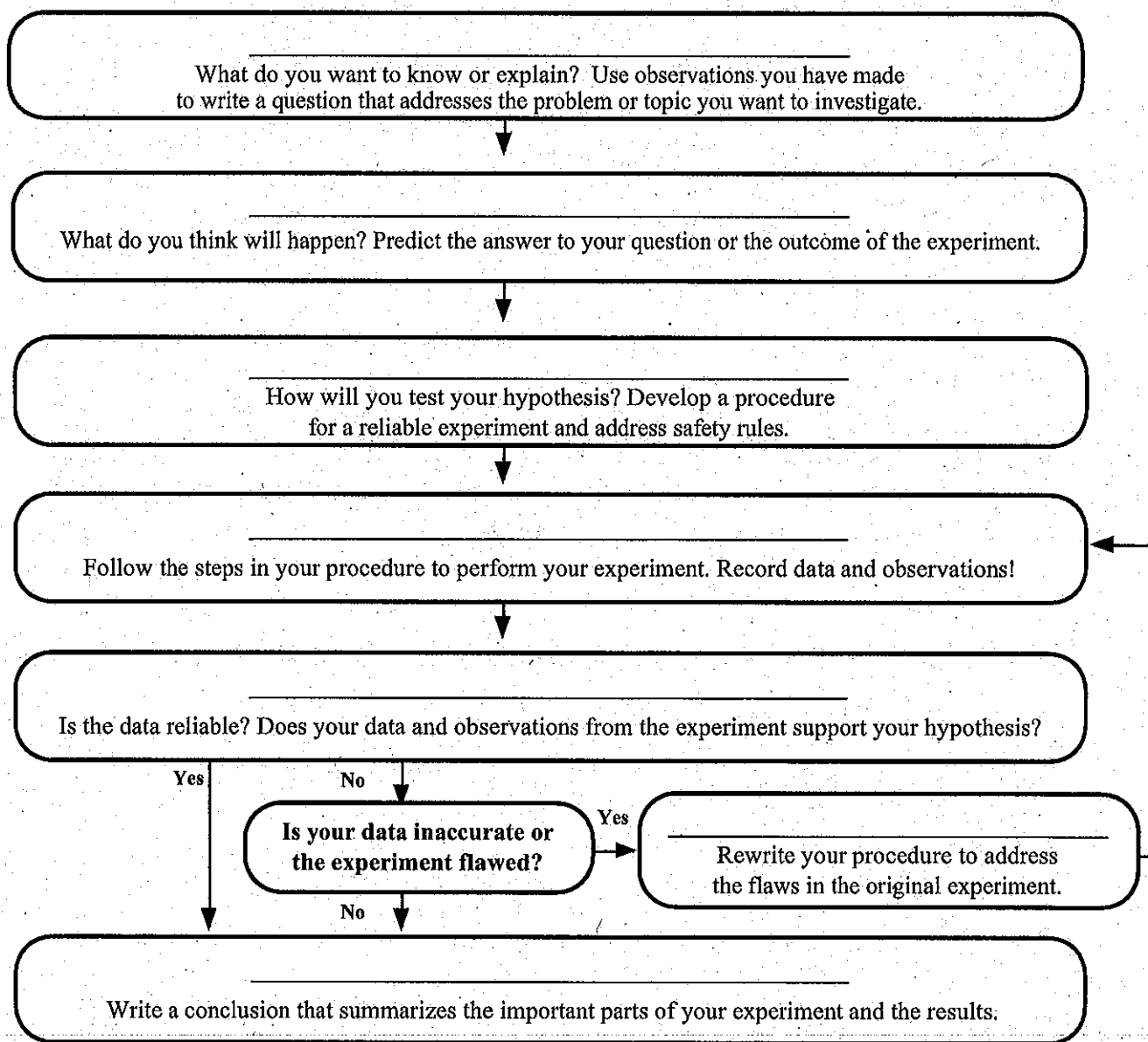
Name _____

What is the scientific method? It is a _____ that is used to find _____ to questions about the world around us.

Is there only one "scientific method"? No, there are several versions of the scientific method. Some versions have more _____, while others may have only a few. However, they all begin with the identification of a _____ or a _____ to be answered based on observations of the world around us and provide an _____ method for conducting and analyzing an experiment.

What is a hypothesis? It is an _____ based on observations and your knowledge of the topic.

What is data? It is _____ gathered during an experiment.



Timeline of US History

1754-1763

1763

March 5
1770

Dec 16
1773

Sept. 1774

April 18-19
1775

May 10
1775

June 16
1775

July 8
1775

Jan
1776

April
1776

July 4
1776

July 9
1776

French and Indian war
takes place over land

Proclamation of 1763 stops
colonists from moving past the
mountains to keep Native
American land protected

French and Indian War leaves
Great Britain in debt

Britain taxes the colonists
(stamp, tea, sugar)

Colonists boycott British goods

British send troops to Boston

Colonists become upset that
the soldiers are in Boston
and protest

Boston Massacre occurs

British repeal all the taxes
except tea

Colonists respond with the
British Tea party

British parliament and king
pass the Intolerable Acts

1st Continental congress writes
up a list of grievances (problems)
they have with the King

Battles of Lexington and Concord.
Neither the Americans or British
win but colonists say it was the
"shot heard around the world".

Battle at Fort Ticonderoga occurs.
Americans capture the fort and
cut of British support from Canada.

Battle of Bunker Hill happens.
British win, but more than
1,000 British soldiers were
killed showing the colonists
were going to put up a strong fight.

The Olive Branch Petition
was drafted by the Second
Continental Congress.
It was the Congress' last
attempt to get King
George III of Great Britain to
reason with the colonists.
The King refused to read it.

Common Sense by Thomas
Paine said it makes "common
sense" for America
to be free from England

2nd Continental congress
votes to be independent
from England

Continental congress signs
the Declaration of
Independence

General George Washington
reads the Declaration of
Independence to his troops

What skills do scientists need when they perform investigations? (write in complete sentences)

Activity Question: What's inside the film canister?

Materials: 1 film canister 1 mystery material

Procedure: Match your film canister mystery material with 3 other peers in the classroom.

Data: Write down all observations as you observe your film canister. (use your senses)

Film canister observations:

Results: Find 3 other peers who you hypothesis (think) have your same mystery material.

Names of others with you think match you	Mystery material
1.	
2.	
3.	

Where all your group members correct? Explain.

If not, why did some people think their material matched yours?

Revise:

Name: _____

The Elephant Poem

by John Godfrey Saxe (1816-1887)

It was six men of Indostan
To learning much inclined
Who went to see the Elephant
(Though all of them were blind),
That each by observation
Might satisfy his mind

The First approached the Elephant,
And happening to fall
Against his broad and sturdy side,
At once began to bawl:
"God bless me! but the Elephant
Is very like a wall!"

The Second, feeling of the tusk,
Cried, "Ho! what have we here
So very round and smooth and sharp?
To me 'tis mighty clear
This wonder of an Elephant
Is very like a spear!"

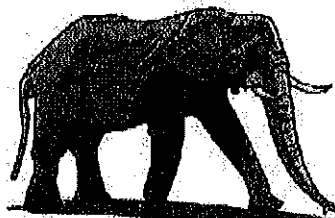
The Third approached the animal,
And happening to take
The squirming trunk within his hands,
Thus boldly up and spake:
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a snake."

The Fourth reached out an eager hand,
And felt about the knee.
"What most this wondrous beast is like
Is mighty plain," quoth he;
"Tis Clear enough the Elephant
Is very like a tree."

The Fifth, who chanced to touch the ear,
Said: "E'en the blindest man
Can tell what this resembles most;
Deny the fact who can,
This marvel of an Elephant
Is very like a fan!"

The Sixth no sooner had begun
About the beast to grope,
Then seizing on the swinging tail
That fell within his scope,
"I see," quoth he, "the Elephant
Is very like a rope."

And so these men of Indostan
Disputed loud and long,
Each in his own opinion
Exceeding stiff and strong,
Though each was partly in the right,
And all were in the wrong.



Literature and the Scientific Method

1. How does this poem illustrate the importance of observation in the scientific method?
2. What is the moral of the tale?
3. Many scientific errors can occur because the researcher does not use good skills of observation. Imagine a scenario where not being observant can result in an experiment going wrong. Describe this scenario in the form of a story or a poem.