

Inquiry for Benchmark One

In the scientific method used in the past, students would pose a question and then a suggestion for an answer which is a hypothesis. They would describe their procedure, perform the experiment, record the results, and then come to a conclusion.

The inquiry method that is required by the State of Oregon uses many of the same components with a few additional expectations. The four components to inquiry science: form, design, collect, and analyze. Students in primary grades often discuss rather than write up their work. They work as a whole class, reporting results to the teacher for class analysis.

FORM

Students talk about what they know about the science of the activity. This information may come from a teacher demonstration of the activity. They ask a question and pose an answer to the question (their hypothesis).

DESIGN

The plan is described step by step being careful to be clear so that other students could complete the experiment without asking clarifying questions.

COLLECT

Students make a simple table to record information. This can be copied from a master and students fill in their data. This information is then transformed into a graph.

ANALYZE

Students talk about the results on the graph. Did their results match their hypothesis?