

The Simpsons and the Scientific Method

Read each scenario and identify the steps of the scientific method.

The Homer Scenario

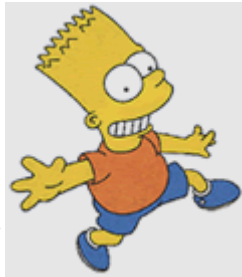
Homer notices that his shower is covered in a strange green slime. His friend Barney tells him that coconut juice will get rid of the green slime. Homer decides to check this out by spraying half of the shower with coconut juice. He sprays the other half of the shower with water. After 3 days of "treatment" there is no change in the appearance of the green slime on either side of the shower.



1. What was the initial observation?
2. Identify the Control Group
3. Identify the Independent Variable
4. Identify the Dependent Variable
5. What should Homer's conclusion be?

The Bart Scenario

Bart believes that mice exposed to microwaves will become extra strong (maybe he's been reading too much Radioactive Man). He decides to perform this experiment by placing 10 mice in a microwave for 10 seconds. He compared these 10 mice to another 10 mice that had not been exposed.



His test consisted of a heavy block of wood that blocked the mouse food. He found that 8 out of 10 of the microwaved mice were able to push the block away. 7 out of 10 of the non-microwaved mice were able to do the same.

6. Identify the Control Group
7. Identify the Independent Variable
8. Identify the Dependent Variable
9. What should Bart's conclusion be?
10. How could Bart's experiment be improved?

The Krusty Scenario

Krusty was told that a certain itching powder was the newest best thing on the market. It even claims to cause 50% longer lasting itches! Interested in this product, he buys the itching powder and compares it to his usual product. One test subject (A) is sprinkled with the original itching powder, and another test subject (B) was sprinkled with the Experimental itching powder. Subject A reported having itches for 30 minutes. Subject B reported to have itches for 45 minutes.



11. Identify the Control Group
12. Identify the Independent Variable
13. Identify the Dependent Variable
14. Explain whether the data supports the advertisements claims about its product.