Variables



Tamara Helfer, 2012 Sequoia Science Explorations

What is a variable?

A variable is something that can CHANGE.

Testable Questions have two parts:

An independent variable

• A dependent variable



What is an <u>Independent</u> Variable?

- The variable that will be changed by you - the scientist.
- A good experiment has only <u>one</u> independent variable!
- The x-axis

What is a <u>Dependent</u> Variable?

- The variable that is being <u>measured</u> in your experiment
- The response to the change you make using the independent variable.
- The Y-axis

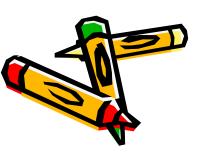
What are control groups?

- Comparison group which is not manipulated at all
- Placebo

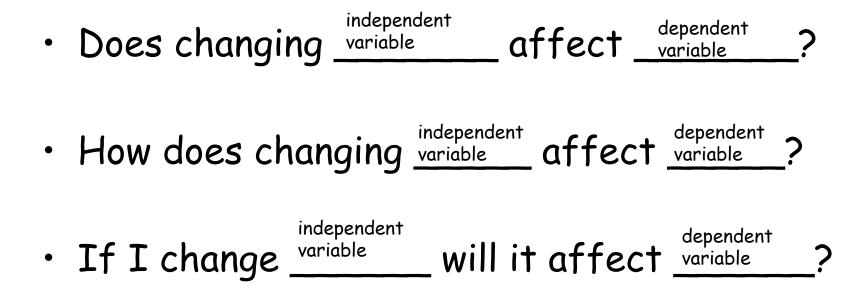


What are constant variables?

 Variables that are kept the same for all experimental groups



Testable Question Formats



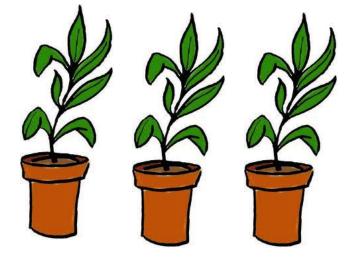
_ depends on _____

A Testable Question

 Does changing the amount of light affect the growth rate of plants?

Identify the INDEPENDENT variable

Identify the DEPENDENT variable



Another Testable Question

 Does the temperature of water affect the time it takes a sugar cube to dissolve?

Identify the INDEPENDENT variable

Identify the DEPENDENT variable









Another Testable Question

 Farmer Amos wants to test a new fertilizer for his tomatoes to see if he can harvest more fruit.

Identify the INDEPENDENT variable Identify the DEPENDENT variable Identify the CONTROL group What are some CONSTANTS

