

Unit 8
Forming Your Own Family

Building Academic Skills
Science

SCIENTIFIC METHOD

Directions: The scientific method can serve as an excellent guide for making wise decisions. Read the information that follows about the method and then try applying it to a question in your own life.

- THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD**
1. Define the problem or question to be answered.
 2. Form a hypothesis or possible answer.
 3. Experiment; collect and examine data.
 4. Form a conclusion.

Forming your own family means making important decisions — whom to marry, when to marry, whether to have children, and many more. Making sound decisions is important in order to solve problems and build a strong family life. Here is an example of how Chandler used the scientific method to decide whether he was genuinely in love.

1. **Question.** Chandler asked, “Am I in love?”
2. **Hypothesis.** Chandler proposed, “I believe I am in love.”
3. **Testing the Hypothesis.** Chandler used a checklist to examine his feelings.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feelings developed gradually and have lasted.
<input type="checkbox"/> Loved one accepted as is, with no desire to change her.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feelings remain when apart.
<input type="checkbox"/> Her needs come before my own.
<input type="checkbox"/> I have a happy outlook on life and zest for work. | <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings based on many traits, both desirable and less desirable.
<input type="checkbox"/> Confident about her commitment to relationship.
<input type="checkbox"/> Differences between the two of us are accepted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problems are faced directly.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidence in our relationship gives us both patience. |
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4. **Conclusion.** Because Chandler checked only four of the ten characteristics, he concluded that his feelings were not a lasting form of love.

APPLICATION

Use the scientific method to answer one of the following questions. Follow the example given. Create a checklist to use in collecting data for Step 3.

1. Am I ready for a steady relationship?
2. Am I ready for marriage?
3. Are _____ and I compatible?
4. Do I want to be a parent someday?