

# MSU Science Zone

No. 19



## What is Science?

The word science comes from an ancient Latin word that means knowledge. Science is a process: a way of thinking and learning about things in which you test predictions about the world around you. Science usually leads to new questions and can never be finished because there will always be more to discover. Science does not prove things once and for all because there is always more to investigate, test and understand.

In science you look at clues and patterns, then come up with a hypothesis. A hypothesis is an idea that can be tested by observing, measuring or creating an experiment to see whether the idea works or not.



Learn about opportunities to participate in upcoming science activities and events at MSU by visiting [Montana.edu/outreach](http://Montana.edu/outreach)



### Try this!

It is important for scientists to know the difference between facts and opinion. Check out these science related sentences and say whether they are facts or opinions.

#### Fact or opinion?

A **fact** is something that can be tested.

An **opinion** is something that someone thinks or believes.

1. Woolly mammoths are extinct.  Fact  Opinion
2. Ear wax can be gray, yellow, orange or brown.  Fact  Opinion
3. Microbes are tiny organisms.  Fact  Opinion
4. It is hard to understand what marine biology means.  Fact  Opinion
5. The ocean is a very interesting place.  Fact  Opinion
6. It is important to try and learn whether there is life on other planets.  Fact  Opinion
7. Inside Yellowstone National Park is a huge caldera that is a supervolcano.  Fact  Opinion
8. Men have more nose hair than women.  Fact  Opinion
9. Using computers is the best way to learn more about physics.  Fact  Opinion
10. More people die from lightning each year than shark attacks.  Fact  Opinion

### Did-you-know?

The average person sheds 40 pounds of skin during his or her lifetime. That's the weight of an average 5 year-old boy.



1-F, 2-F, 3-F, 4-O, 5-O, 6-O, 7-F, 8-F, 9-O, 10-F