

Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journey

Glossary

Analyze—to review data or information. The goal of analysis is to create conclusions that explain more about the research subject.

Citizen science—a way for everyday people to participate in and help scientists advance research. Typically, this collaboration involves volunteers who aren't professional scientists. Citizen scientists follow guidelines (or "protocols") to collect data, share observations, or analyze data for scientists and others to answer questions about the world.

Conclusion—after scientists analyze their data and results from an experiment, they form a conclusion that answers their scientific question and either confirms or denies their hypothesis.

Data—information that scientists receive, collect, or observe in the field.

Empathy—the ability to understand how someone else feels.

Hypothesis—an idea that can be tested to see if it's true. After scientists pose a scientific question, they form a hypothesis as to what they think the answer is.

Iterate—when you repeat a process many times. Scientists use iteration when they run multiple trials or collect data multiple times for their research.

Observation—watching and noticing something using all of your senses, especially sight, to get information. Observation helps you better understand a situation or environment.

Scientific method—the process, or series of steps, that scientists take to conduct scientific research.

Scientific question—a question that can be answered with a hypothesis and confirmed or denied with an experiment. Scientific questions are testable.

Sustainable solution—a solution that lasts. Sustainable solutions often address the root causes of an issue. Sustainable solutions create a difference for those impacted by a problem over the long-term. The Think Like a Citizen Scientist Take Action Guide has more information about how to create a sustainable project, as well as examples.