

Appendices

The appendices of *Nelson Chemistry 11* are an important feature of the text, enabling students to learn how to learn. The four appendices cover:

- Scientific Inquiry Skills
- Technological Problem Solving
- Decision-Making Skills
- Lab Reports
- Math Skills
- Safety Skills
- Reference Tables
- Answers to Questions

Appendix A1

Observational Studies

Often the purpose of inquiry is simply to study a natural phenomenon with the intention of gaining scientifically significant information in answer to a question. Observational studies involve observing a subject or phenomenon in an unobtrusive or unstructured manner, usually with no hypothesis. A hypothesis may, however, be generated by repeated observations, and modified as new information is collected over time.

The flow chart (Figure 3) summarizes the stages and processes of scientific inquiry through observational studies.

Appendix A1

Correlational Studies

When the purpose of scientific inquiry is to test a suspected relationship (hypothesis) between two different variables, but a controlled experiment is not possible, a correlational study is conducted. The investigator cannot purposefully change or control the variables but instead must allow them to change naturally. It is often difficult to isolate cause and effect in correlational studies. A correlational inquiry requires large sample numbers and many replicators to increase the certainty of the results.

The flow chart (Figure 2) outlines the components that are important in designing a correlational study. An investigation may determine whether or not other variables affect the relationship.

Appendix A1

Scientific Inquiry Skills

Plan an investigation

Controlled experiments

Appendix A1

Tree species	Common	Scientific name	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total

Participant	Colour plate 1	Matched correctly (%)
1		
2		
3		

Sex	Colourblind	Normal
Male		
Female		

Appendix A1

Scientific Inquiry Skills

Plan an Investigation

In our attempts to further our understanding of the natural world, we encounter questions, mysteries, or events that are not readily explainable. We can use controlled experiments, correlational studies, or observational studies to help us look for answers or explanations. The methods used in scientific inquiry depend to a large degree, on the purpose of the inquiry.

Controlled Experiments

Controlled experiments are performed when the purpose of the inquiry is to create or test a scientific concept. In a controlled experiment, an independent variable is purposefully and steadily changed to determine if it has a causal, dependent, variable. All other variables are controlled or kept constant. The common components for controlled experiments are outlined in the flow chart (Figure 1). Even though the sequence is presented linearly, there are normally many cycles through the steps during the actual experiment.

Your question forms the basis for your investigation. Controlled experiments are about relationships. The question may also be about when variable B is changed. The question may also be about what causes the change in variable A. In this case, you might speculate about possible variables and determine which variable causes the change.

A hypothesis is a tentative explanation. The hypothesis must be able to test your hypothesis. It can range in certainty from a statement of the dependent variable and control to the independent variable.

The design of a controlled experiment identifies how you plan to manipulate the independent variable, and on what response of the dependent variable and control to the other variables.

Appendix A1

Scientific Inquiry Skills

Plan an Investigation

Controlled Experiments

There are many cycles to go through and record observations during an investigation. It is helpful to plan ahead and think about what information you will need and how best to record it. This kind of preparation helps to clarify your thinking about the question posed at the beginning of the variables, the number of trials, the procedures, and so on. It will also help you to answer the question posed at the beginning of the investigation.

After thoroughly analyzing your observations, you may have sufficient evidence to support the hypothesis or not—and the hypothesis may be modified.

In preparing your report, your objectives should be to describe your design and procedure accurately, and to report your observations accurately and honestly.

Appendix A1

Model cell	Initial mass (g)	Mass after 10 min (g)	Mass after 20 min (g)	Other observations
Cell 1—distilled water with distilled water in beaker of distilled water				
Cell 2—distilled water with starch suspension in beaker of distilled water				
Cell 3—distilled water with distilled water in beaker of starch suspension				

Appendix A3

Technological Problem Solving Skills

There is a difference between science and technology. The goal of science is to understand the natural world. The goal of technological problem solving is to develop or refine a product or a process in response to a human need. The product or process must fulfill its function best, in contrast which leads to a clear definition of the problem, and ends with an appropriate solution that addresses the need. It is important to keep in mind that the process itself is an important dimension of effective problem solving. Figure 2 outlines the process of technological problem solving in the design cycle.

Appendix A3

Design criteria	Design 1	Design 2
Energy efficiency	4	3
Cost	2	4
Safety	3	4
Reliability	3	4
Material quality	3	4
Weight	3	4
Total score	19	17

Appendix A2

Decision-Making Skills

Modern life is filled with environmental and social issues that have scientific and technological dimensions. An issue is defined as a problem that has at least two possible solutions rather than a single answer. There can be many problems, generally determined by the values that an individual or a society holds, on a single issue. Which solution is "best" is a matter of opinion. Ideally, the solution that is implemented is the one that is most "appropriate" for society as a whole. The common components involved in the decision-making process are outlined in the graph below.

Appendix A2

Decision-Making Skills

Formulate a research question that helps to test, narrow, or define the issue. This helps you to identify and find suitable and relevant sources of information. You may construct a flow chart, concept map, or other graphic organizer to outline the scope of your information search. Gather information from a number of different sources.

In this step, you will analyze the issue and clarify when you need first. You should establish criteria for evaluating your information to determine the reliability and significance of the data. You can then evaluate your sources of information, determine what assumptions may have been made, and assess whether enough information was provided for you to make a decision. Once this issue has been defined, you can begin to evaluate the alternative solutions. You may decide to carry out a risk/benefit analysis—a tool that enables you to look at each possible result of a proposed action and helps you make a decision.

After analyzing your information, you can answer your research question and take an informed position on the issue. You should be able to defend your decision in an appropriate forum. For example, you can make a presentation, participate in a debate, or write a supported opinion piece. A decision paper, a letter, or an editorial is a way to express your decision.

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