

WHAT IS SCIENCE ?

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The world is vast, filled with a little bit of the known, but mostly unknown. We're constantly surrounded by the marvels of nature, of mankind, of what our imaginations have achieved and what our wildest dreams could never have conjured up. But how do we make sense of all this? By asking questions of course! And isn't that what science is all about? Always asking questions?

Take away message? Ask the right questions!

Merriam-Webster states that "Science" is the knowledge about, or study of the natural world based on facts learned through experiments and observation. Factually, that is true. But that also feels too restrictive to truly explain what science embodies. Science at its core is a constant search for answers. It is a curious mind chasing the right questions. Sometimes though it's the wrong question through which you stumble upon the right answers. And these answers? These answers shape themselves into what we "professionals" like to refer to as science.

Take away message? Be Curious!

A hunter gathers food, a scientist gathers information. A hunter has their tools and weapons, a scientist has the "5 Ws" and "The Scientific Method". The "5 Ws": what, where, who, when and why are the 5 questions one asks to get a fleshed-out scenario. The different aspects it addresses allows for a more holistic picture. You ask, act, observe, interpret and finally, answer. A simple set of steps coined as "The Scientific Method". The purpose is to establish a template that allows one to methodically go from the

“5Ws” to a reliable answer. And the answer, once established as consistent, gets added as another entry into “The Journal of Science – the musings of an everchanging landscape of dreamers and explorers”.

Take away message? Q&A all the way!

Typically, when a person says science, the fields most associated to it are Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, etc. The modern-day definition of STEM has really boxed in who gets to claim the title of being affiliated to the sciences. But the dreamers and explorers are not limited to the scope of the natural and technological sciences. Yes, there is science in nature – the millions of florae and fauna that inhabit our planet, the light from the stars above us, the stability from the earth below us, the depths of the oceans around us. But there is also science in the arts – the force of the strokes, the angles of the lines drawn, the ratio for color gradations, the chemical composition of the paints. There is science in social studies – human behavioral patterns, financial equations, statistical studies. There is science in everything, and that is a notion that is lost to people who see science as a “smart people”, “modern-age” subject that further drives a divide between people based on a perceived educational gap, generational gap, and religious beliefs. However, that could not be further from the truth. Science is understanding what is happening and it is meant to be accessible and available to anyone and everyone. It’s not meant to be divisive; it’s meant to be collaborative and inclusive.

Take away message? Science is everything, everywhere, all at once!

Science brings a sense of understanding to the wonders of the world surrounding us. It brings us together in awe of how such complicated and seemingly chaotic systems like rain and thunderstorms can work together in such simplicity and harmony like water evaporating and accumulating up until it gets to be too much and finally falls down, as rain and thunderstorms! It is where it is today because curious people looked out the window and asked questions. They did way back then, and they continue to do so now. And THAT is science. It is set in stone, as basic principles are established. Yet it is also constantly in flux as new possibilities are explored. Science is a closed system of answers that is open-ended for another season, and you’re invited to watch.

Take away message? Science is an ever-changing rhythm of endless possibilities!