**Introduction to the Scientific Method Worksheet**

Long ago, many people believed that living things could come from nonliving things. They thought that worms came from wood and that maggots came from decaying meat. This idea was called spontaneous generation. In 1668, an Italian biologist, Francesco Redi, did experiments to prove that maggots did not come from meat. One of his experiments is shown below.

Redi placed pieces of meat in several jars. He divided the jars into two groups. He left the first group of jars uncovered. He covered the second group of jars with fine cloth. Redi observed the jars for several days. He saw flies on the cloth of the covered jars, and he saw flies laying eggs on the meat in the uncovered jars. Maggots appeared only on the meat in the group of jars left uncovered.

**Questions**

1. Which is not a step in the scientific method?

 a. Problem or question. c. Ask other people for their opinion.

 b. Research. d. Arrive at a conclusion.

2**.** What was the problem in Redi’s experiment?

 a. How do maggots appear in meats?

 b. How do worms appear in wood?

 c. Is spontaneous generation a valid explanation for maggots in meats?

 d. All of the above are examples of problems.

3. What do you think his hypothesis was?

 a. Maggots grow through spontaneous generation.

 b. Maggots come from eggs laid by flies.

 c. Maggots find their way into woods and meats.

 d. The problem cannot be solved.

4. How did he test his hypothesis?

 a. He placed food in two jars, covering one jar and leaving the other uncovered.

 b. He placed food in two jars and left both jars uncovered.

 c. He placed food in two jars and covered both jars.

 d. He put food in one jar and no food in a second jar.

5. What was the variable in his experiment?

 a. Covering both jars.

 b. Covering one jar and leaving the other uncovered.

 c. Leaving both jars uncovered.

 d. There was no variable in this experiment.

6. What do you think Redi’s conclusion was?

 a. Living things come from other living things.

 b. Living things are created through spontaneous generation.

 c. He did not have enough data to arrive at a conclusion.

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