

Science Skills -8

Making Hypotheses

To **HYPOTHESIZE**
is to make an assumption in order
to test an idea further.

Hypothesizing is more than just a guess. It is a smart guess that you arrive at after making some careful observations of facts or events.

Read each description of an event. Then make a smart guess (a hypothesis) about each one.

Make sure the hypothesis is something that could be tested through scientific inquiry.

Ozzie left his plate out on the counter after lunch. On the plate he left a piece of an egg sandwich, some apple slices, a strawberry, a piece of banana, and some chips. When he returned two hours later, the plate was full of fruit flies. He noticed that the flies were mostly settled on the apples, strawberry, and banana.

1. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

Ozzie sets a paper clip on the surface of a glass of water. The paper clip does not sink. When he sets a thumbtack on the water, it does sink.

Ozzie notices that his pet rat is not interested in a round toy that is sitting in the middle of the floor. When he kicks the toy and it rolls around, the rat perks up and chases it.

2. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

3. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

Ozzie slices some potatoes, because he intends to make potato chips. He lets them soak in very salty water. (He thinks this will make them into nice, salty chips when he fries them.) When he comes back several hours later to fry the chips, the slices are very limp.

When Ozzie is getting ready to wash dishes, he mistakenly bangs two pot lids together. He notices the sound. Then, while washing the lids, he bangs them together under water. He is surprised that the sound is louder and clearer than before.

4. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

5. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

Ozzie watched a friend do a magic trick. The friend filled a cup of water almost to the top with cold water. Then she floated a big ice cube on the top. The friend laid a piece of wet string across the ice cube. Then she sprinkled salt over the string and waited three minutes. When she picked up the ends of the string, she also picked up the ice cube because it stuck to the string.

Ozzie had a liter bottle full of water. He wanted to empty the water. He turned the bottle upside down. It took a very long time to empty. The water just did not seem to want to come out, even though he was holding the bottle directly upside down.



6. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.

7. Write a hypothesis that could be tested.
