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Scientific Method and Reasoning

Long ago, many people believe that living things could come from nonliving things. They thought worms came from wood and maggots came from decaying meat. This idea was called spontaneous generation. In 1668, an Italian biologist, Francesco Redi, performed 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 covered the first group of jars with fine cloth. He left the second group of jars uncovered. Red 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.

1. Scientists use a series of organized steps called the scientific method to solve problems. List the steps of the scientific method.
2. What was the problem in Redi's experiment?
3. What do you think his hypothesis was?
4. How did he test his hypothesis?
5. What was his variable in his experiment?
6. What was the control in his experiment?
7. What do you think Redi's conclusion was?