

Name _____

The Scientific Method in Psychology

Open-Ended Questions Answer Key

1. To study the effects of video games on children's attention span, I would first ask the question, "Do video games impact children's attention span?" I would then conduct research to understand existing studies and gather information. My hypothesis might be, "I think playing video games reduces children's attention span." Next, I would design experiments involving groups of children, some playing video games, and others not, followed by attention span tests. Data would be collected through observation and testing. Data analysis would involve comparing attention span results between the two groups. Depending on the findings, I would draw conclusions about the impact of video games on attention span in children.
2. One famous psychological study is the Stanford prison experiment conducted by Philip Zimbardo. In this study, the scientific method was used to investigate the psychological effects of becoming a prisoner or prison guard. Hypotheses were formulated, experiments were designed, data was collected through observations and interviews, and data analysis revealed the psychological changes in participants. This experiment shed light on the power of social situations and authority figures on human behavior, influencing our understanding of obedience and authority.
3. Data collection involves gathering information through various methods, such as surveys, observations, or experiments, to collect raw data. Data analysis, on the other hand, involves processing and interpreting the collected data to draw meaningful conclusions. Both are crucial in psychological research, as data collection provides the foundation, while data analysis helps psychologists make sense of the information and draw insights from it.
4. Learning about the scientific method in psychology is important for students because it teaches critical thinking, research skills, and an understanding of human behavior. Even if students don't become psychologists, these skills can be applied in various aspects of life, such as improving communication, decision-making, and problem-solving. Understanding the scientific method also encourages an evidence-based approach to understanding human behavior, leading to informed choices in personal and professional life.

