**Section Summary – Scientific Method**

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| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | **Scientific methods** are the ways in which scientists follow steps to answer questions and solve problems. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | Any information gathered through the senses is an **observation**. Observations often lead to the formation of questions and hypotheses. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | A **hypothesis** is a possible explanation or answer to a question. A well-formed hypothesis can be tested by experiments. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | A **controlled experiment** tests only one factor at a time in order to determine the effects of changes to just that one factor. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | After testing a hypothesis, scientists **analyze the results** and **draw conclusions** about whether the hypothesis is supported. |
| http://my.hrw.com/images/points/1.gif | **•** | **Communicating results** allows others to check the results, add to their knowledge, form new hypotheses, and design new experiments. |