

Vocabulary

Use the vocabulary words and definitions below as a reference for this unit.

analog that which has similar characteristics to another thing (like the similarity between the heart and a pulse)

computer simulation a computer program designed to represent the behavior of something in the physical world

conclusion an explanation of a problem based on observations and collected data

control group the part of the experiment without a variable factor; allows the results of experiment to be compared

controlled experiment an experiment in which all the factors are the same except for the one being tested

data scientific facts that are collected, usually in the form of numbers

experiment a way to test a hypothesis or try out an answer to a question

experimental group part of the experiment that contains the variable factor

fact an idea that has been proven by experiments

Vocabulary

- Galileo Galilei** an Italian astronomer and physicist who discovered that objects fall at the same rate regardless of mass
- hypothesis** an idea or statement that attempts to explain the relationship of observed factors; an educated guess
- laboratory** a place equipped and used for experimental study, research, analysis, testing, or preparation in any branch of science
- observation** noticing something, using one's senses (sight, smell, touch, hearing, or taste)
- scale model** a man-made version of a physical object that is identical in proportion to the original but which may be smaller in total size
- scientific law** a scientific theory that has been tested many times and has produced the same results over a period of many years
- scientific method** the steps scientists use to solve problems
- theory** a hypothesis that has withstood the test of time
- variable factor** the factor being tested in an experiment