**SCIENTIFIC METHOD VOCABULARY**

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| OBSERVATION | Any data collected/ recorded during scientific activity |
| INFERENCE | An idea or conclusion that is based on evidence and reasoning. |
| THEORY | An explanation of the natural world based on facts that have been repeatedly confirmed through observation and experiment. |
| HYPOTHESIS | Possible explanation or answer to a question that can be tested. |
| PREDICTION | A quantitative statement that forecasts what will happen under specific conditions. |
| DATA | Facts of pieces of information |
| QUALITATIVE DATA | Data that can be observed but not measured. Deals with descriptions.  Colors, textures, smells, tastes, appearance, etc.  **Qualit**ative - **Qualit**y |
| QUANTITATIVE DATA | Data which can be measured and deals with numbers.  Length, height, speed, time, temperature, area, volume, weight, etc.  **Quantit**ative - **Quantit**y |
| INDEPENDENT VARIABLE | The variable that is changed or controlled in a scientific experiment. |
| DEPENDENT VARIABLE | What is measured or observed in the experiment. |
| CONSTANTS | The variable that scientists want to remain the same. |
| CONTROL GROUP | The group in an experiment or study that does not receive treatment by the researchers and is then used as a benchmark to measure how the other tested subjects do. |