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Further Investigations

After completing an investigation, scientists often form new questions about the original subject.

New Questions

The new questions that result from previous research often build upon the knowledge that the scientist gained from the first investigation.

Some possible new questions include:

- Can the investigation's procedure be improved to produce better results?
- Are there new investigations that should be performed based on the current results?
- What would happen if a different variable were tested? For instance, what if plants in an experiment were given different amounts of water or sunlight instead of different amounts of fertilizer?



The results from a study on the effect of fertilizer on plant growth might lead a scientist to then ask, "How does giving this kind of plant different amounts of water affect its growth?"

Sometimes, a conclusion cannot be reached from the data obtained during an investigation. Perhaps the data did not show any pattern or trend. In such cases, it is possible that more than one variable determines the result. To find out, the

scientist should design a new investigation to show how a particular variable affects the outcome of the investigation.

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