

SpongeBob and his Bikini Bottom pals have been busy doing a little research. Read each of the experiments and answer the questions.

#1 - Patty Power

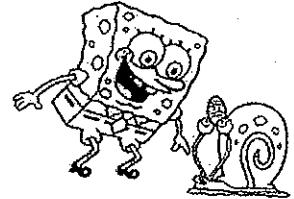


Mr. Krabs wants to make Bikini Bottoms a nicer place to live. He has created a new sauce that he thinks will reduce the production of body gas associated with eating crabby patties from the Krusty Krab. He recruits 100 customers with a history of gas problems. He has 50 of them (Group A) eat crabby patties with the new sauce. The other 50 (Group B) eat crabby patties with sauce that looks just like new sauce but is really just mixture of mayonnaise and food coloring. Both groups were told that they were getting the sauce that would reduce gas production. Two hours after eating the crabby patties, 30 customers in group A reported having fewer gas problems and 8 customers in group B reported having fewer gas problems.

- a. Which people are in the control group?
- b. What is the independent variable?
- c. What is the dependent variable?
- d. What should Mr. Krabs' conclusion be?
- e. Why do you think 8 people in group B reported feeling better?

#2 - Slimotosis

Sponge Bob notices that his pal Gary is suffering from slimotosis, which occurs when the shell develops a nasty slime and gives off a horrible odor. His friend Patrick tells him that rubbing seaweed on the shell is the perfect cure, while Sandy says that drinking Dr. Kelp will be a better cure. Sponge Bob decides to test this cure by rubbing Gary with seaweed and having him drink Dr. Kelp for 1 week. After a week of treatment, the slime is gone and Gary's shell smells better.



- a. What was the initial observation?
- b. What is the independent variable?
- c. What is the dependent variable?
- d. What should Sponge Bob's conclusion be?

#3 - Marshmallow Muscles



Larry was told that a certain muscle cream was the newest best thing on the market and claims to double a person's muscle power when used as part of a muscle-building workout. Interested in this product, he buys the special muscle cream and recruits Patrick and SpongeBob to help him with an experiment. Larry develops a special marshmallow weight-lifting program for Patrick and SpongeBob. He meets with them once every day for a period of 2 weeks and keeps track of their results. Before each session Patrick's arms and back are lathered in the muscle cream, while Sponge Bob's arms and back are lathered with the regular lotion.

Time	Patrick	SpongeBob
Initial Amount	18	5
After 1 week	24	9
After 2 weeks	33	17

- a. Which person is in the control group?
- b. What is the independent variable?
- c. What is the dependent variable?
- d. What should Larry's conclusion be?

#4 – Microwave Miracle

Patrick believes that fish that eat food exposed to microwaves will become smarter and would be able to swim through a maze faster. He decides to perform an experiment by placing fish food in a microwave for 20 seconds. He has the fish swim through a maze and records the time it takes for each one to make it to the end. He feeds the special food to 10 fish and gives regular food to 10 others. After 1 week, he has the fish swim through the maze again and records the times for each.

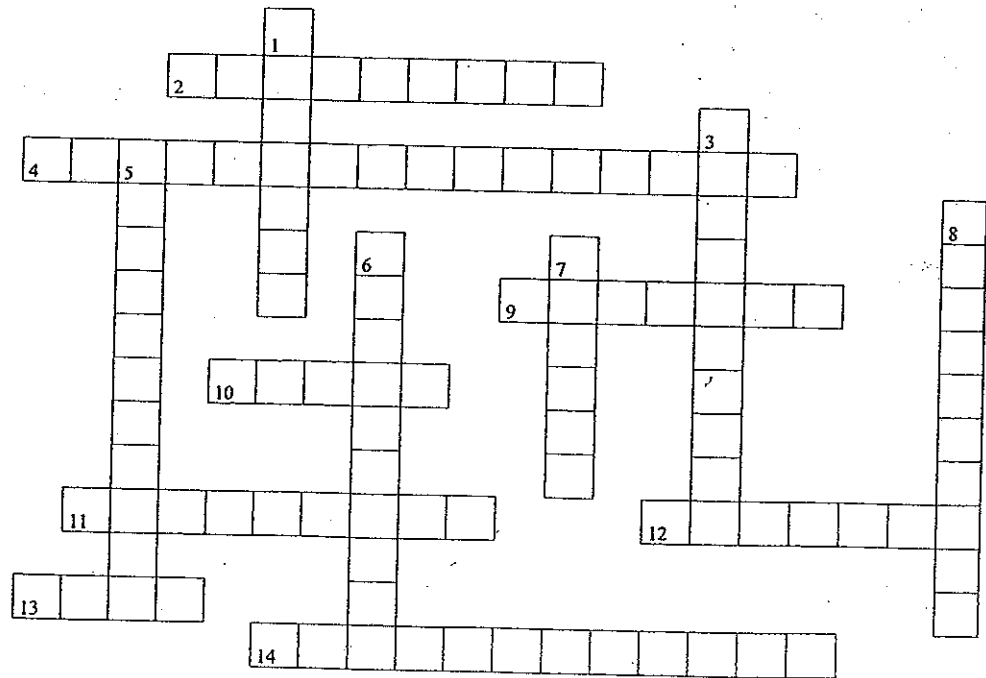
Special Food Group Time (min/sec)		
Fish	Before	After
1	1:06	1:00
2	1:54	1:20
3	2:04	1:57
4	2:15	2:20
5	1:27	1:20
6	1:45	1:40
7	1:00	1:15
8	1:28	1:26
9	1:09	1:00
10	2:00	1:43

Regular Food Group Time (min/sec)		
Fish	Before	After
1	1:09	1:09
2	1:45	1:45
3	2:00	2:05
4	1:30	1:23
5	1:28	1:24
6	2:09	2:00
7	1:25	1:19
8	1:00	1:15
9	2:04	1:57
10	1:34	1:30

- What was Patrick's hypothesis?
- Which fish are in the control group?
- What is the independent variable?
- What is the dependent variable?
- Look at the results in the charts. What should Patrick's conclusion be?

Scientific Method Vocabulary Crossword

Use the clues to help you fill in the puzzle.



Down

- The ? is the part of an experiment that is not being tested and is used for comparison.
- After an experiment, scientists write a ? which summarizes their experiment and results.
- The ? variable is the part of the experiment that is being tested or the part that is changed by the person doing the experiment.
- The ? is an educated guess.
- Scientists use their data to make charts and ? to communicate the results of an experiment.
- After the scientist makes a hypothesis, they perform an ? to collect data.

Across

- The ? describes the steps you use during an experiment.
- The ? is a process used by scientists to find answers to questions or solve a problem.
- The first step of the scientific method is to define or identify the ?.
- Sometimes scientists make a mistake, or ?, and need to do an experiment again.
- The ? variable is the part of the experiment that is affected by the independent variable.
- After the experiment, scientists organize and ? the data.
- The information collected during an experiment is called ?.
- Scientists make ? to help them make a hypothesis or collect data during an experiment.