Collecting Data

How are data collected?

Data are pieces of information you collect during an investigation. Your data may include observations and measurements. An observation is information gathered with your senses. Measurements are precise observations that include numbers and units. You make measurements using tools such as those above.

During an investigation, you should record, or write down, your data. To keep data accurate, record observations when you make them. Also remember to include units with your measurements. Recording data accurately lets others repeat your experiment and check your results. Repeating measurements allows you to check the accuracy of your data. Each set of repeated measurements is called a trial.

Show What You Know

Fill in each blank with a word from this lesson that appears in bold type.

1. A repeated set of measurements is a ________________.

2. Precise observations that include numbers and units are ________________.

3. Information you collect during an investigation is called ________________.

4. Any information you gather with your senses is an ________________.