

## Science: A Journey of Discovery

Have you wondered 'why it rains'? Did you ever ask 'how it rains'? Have you explored 'when it rains'? Have you tried to find out 'where it rains'? Do you understand what rain is? We learn by asking questions. The 5 important questions we ask involve these 5 words: the 4 "W"s and 1 "H", which are Why, When, Where, What and How. With these 5 words, you are ready to explore the world and begin your journey of discovery.

Each question would raise other questions. For example if you ask "Where it rains?", you may find out that some places rain a lot - resulting in floods, whilst in some places it does not rain enough - resulting in deserts. Then you will want to ask why it rains more in some places and less in others. Science is about asking the right questions. When you find answers to one question, it normally results in many new questions. Science is about having a systematic way of asking these questions.

After you have asked the right question, you will want to find ways to find the answers. There are many ways to find the answers you need. You can ask your parents or teachers. You may go to the library to find the suitable book. You can run your own experiments to find out the answers. These days, you can also go to the internet to discover the answers for yourself. Science is about the systematic way of finding the answers to your questions.

After you have found the answers, you may want to discuss with your parents about the answers you have found. You may want to check with your teachers about the new information you have discovered. You may want to debate your findings with your friends. Science is about explaining your new knowledge to other people in a way that they agree with you. It is about re-examining your answers if others do not agree with you. Science is about finding new knowledge and adding them to the existing oceans of knowledge. It is your way of contributing to how we understand the world.

A person of science is eager to have all his opinion regenerated and his ideas rationalized through immersing himself in facts and devoting his efforts to finding the truth, not as he understands it, but as he has yet to understand it. Thus science is like a house of knowledge; each fact is a brick that makes up the house. However, a pile of brick is not a house, and a collection of facts is not necessarily science. It is our job to use these bricks and build our house of knowledge. Science Fair is about your building your own house of knowledge.

We have been created with 5 senses: to see, to taste, to smell, to feel and to hear. Edwin Hubble, an American Scientist, once said that "Equipped with his five senses, man explores the Universe around him and calls the adventure Science". Science can be learned best if you use all 5 senses to explore the world around you. They are all used as inputs to the 'motherboard' which we call the brain. The brain tells us if what we see is delightful or not, if what we taste is yummy or bland, if what we smell is pleasant or rotten, if what we feel is nice or coarse, or if what we hear is melodic or just loud. The brain also tells us what we like to do and what we do not like.

So the time has come for you to explore the world and begin your journey of knowledge.