

## Key Science Vocabulary ~ #4

- **Investigation** ~ a series of controlled steps, which can be repeated, for the purpose of answering a testable question
- **Dependent variable** ~ a variable in a logical or mathematical expression whose value depends in the independent variable
- **Precision** ~ how close a set of measurements are to the true value.
- **Bias** ~ favoring one thing over another unfairly to gain something.
- **True Value** ~ the actual value that would be obtained with perfect measuring instruments and without committing any error of any type. (The correct answer)
- **Law** ~ a descriptive generalization about how some aspect of the natural world behaves under stated circumstances
- **Independent variable** ~ the experimental factor that is manipulated; the variable whose effect is being studied
- **Society** ~ Group of people that share similar values and beliefs
- **Accuracy** ~ how close a measured value is to the correct value (true value)
- **Data** ~ evidence; information often gathered in the form of facts or figures, obtained from experiments or surveys
- **Scientific Theory** ~ well tested concept that explains a wide range of observations; a well-substantiated explanation of some aspect of the natural world that can incorporate facts, laws, inferences, and tested hypotheses
- **Hypothesis** ~ possible answer to a scientific question
- **Observation** ~ use of one or more of the senses to gather information
- **Variable** ~ a factor that can change in an experiment
- **Inference** ~ logical conclusion based on observations
- **Science** ~ the field of study concerned with discovering and describing the world around us by observing and experimenting. Biology, chemistry, and physics are all branches of *science*.
- **Controlled Variable** ~ a constant variable that is part of the experiment that is not being tested and is used for comparison