

Biology

The Scientific Study of  
Life

Comparative  
Investigation

Investigation where data  
is collected on different  
groups to make a  
comparison.

Constants

Factors in an experiment  
that are kept the same  
and are not allowed to  
change or vary.

Control Group

In an experiment, the group that is  
not exposed to the treatment;  
contrasts with the experimental  
group and serves as a comparison  
for evaluating the effect of the  
treatment.

Controlled Experiment

A test of the effect of a  
single variable by changing  
it while keeping all other  
variables the same.

○ **Dependent Variable**

The variable in an experiment that is measured or observed; changes in response to what is being manipulated in the experiment; The EFFECT of "Cause and Effect"; Often on the y-axis of a graph.

**Descriptive Investigation**

Investigation that uses careful observations and measurements to develop descriptive findings.

○ **DNA**

A molecule containing the universal genetic code, which is passed from one generation to the next.

**Experimental Group**

In an experiment, the group that is being tested or treated, by changing one factor.

○ **Experimental Investigation**

Investigation that focuses on the relationships between variables and on what happens in a system when one variable is manipulated; Uses a Hypothesis.

Stimulus

A change in an organism's surroundings that causes the organism to react

Variable

A factor in an experiment that can change in ways that can be observed, measured, and verified.