The SCIENTIFIC METHOD: Please note there is no such method “written in stone”, so to speak. Science has made discoveries using other procedures. This is the general outline, however:

1. Recognize the problem (what is it you want to test?)
2. Research the problem (what kind of background information can you find?)
3. Form a hypothesis. (make a prediction, or educated guess, as to what will happen.)
4. Test your hypothesis. (By performing the experiment)
5. Draw conclusions. (Analyze your data. If your hypothesis is wrong, you may need to make another hypothesis and test that.)
6. Form a theory. (If your hypothesis proves correct after repeated trials by different experimenters, it may become a theory.)

Key words:

*Hypothesis:* An educated guess or prediction

*Independent variable:* What the experimenter controls.

*Dependant variable:* The effect that the independent variable has on the test.

*Control:* a part of the experiment that is “left alone” as a comparison.

*Constants:* factors that must be kept the same between all test subjects. (i.e., everything except the independent variable)

*Technology:* the use of scientific discoveries to solve everyday problems.