

How science works

Science is an exciting and dynamic process of discovery. This flowchart shows the real process of scientific inquiry. Use it to trace the development of scientific ideas or the research of individual scientists. You'll see that each scientific journey is unique, shaped by specific people and events.



There are many routes into the process—like making a surprising observation



Testing ideas—as this scientist is doing in the field—is at the heart of science



Science relies on a community—both within a research group and across all of science



Science is intertwined with society and affects our lives every day

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www.understandingscience.org
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UCMP

Flowchart adapted from the *Understanding Science* website (www.understandingscience.org), a project of the University of California and the UC Museum of Paleontology, with funding from the National Science Foundation © 2008 The University of California Museum of Paleontology, Berkeley, and the Regents of the University of California

