

Prediction Practice

Name:

Period:

For science, a prediction must be something that can be tested.

"I predict that I could breathe on Mars" is not a good prediction, because it cannot be tested. People have not traveled to Mars yet.

"I predict that I could walk through that wall" is a prediction, because it can be tested. It just would hurt a lot. So don't do it.

A prediction answers a question that popped into your mind when you made an observation.

Hmmm. My cat just saw a bird through the window. He crouched down, and started moving towards the bird really slowly. I wonder why he does that? Hey -- maybe moving slowly makes it less likely that the bird will see him, and he could get close enough to grab it.

A prediction is set up a certain way. It uses an "if...then...because" structure, to show cause and effect.

If my cat is stalking a bird by crouching down and moving slowly, then it will be a successful hunter because the bird will not notice it getting closer.

You also want to make sure that your prediction contains proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation.

Analyze the predictions below. Check off the boxes that are true.

OBSERVATION: I notice that the part of my fish tank that gets more sunlight seems to have more algae on the glass. Why does this happen?

PREDICTION 1: If I clean the algae off of the fish tank, then more algae will grow back on the sunny side.

- it is a prediction that you could actually test
- it is based upon observations
- it is in an "if...then..because" format
- it has proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation



Is this a good prediction? Explain why or why not.

PREDICTION 2: If I scrape the algae off of the fish tank, then it will not grow back because I killed all of it.

- it is a prediction that you could actually test
- it is based upon observations
- it is in an "if...then..because" format
- it has proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Is this a good prediction? Explain why or why not.

turn over for more predictions to analyze

Practice: 14 points

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PREDICTION 3: I hate aljii becuz it is stoopid.

- it is a prediction that you could actually test
- it is based upon observations
- it is in an "if...then..because" format
- it has proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Is this a good prediction? Explain why or why not.

PREDICTION 4: If I clean the algae off of the fish tank, then more algae will grow back on the sunny side because sunlight helps algae to grow.

- it is a prediction that you could actually test
- it is based upon observations
- it is in an "if...then..because" format
- it has proper spelling, grammar, and punctuation

Is this a good prediction? Explain why or why not.

Now design an experiment about algae and a fish tank. How could you test the best prediction from the four predictions you analyzed above? Explain what you would do for your experiment below. *Hint: what could you do to block sunlight from getting to just part of the tank?*