

**Unit 8**  
**Forming Your Own Family**

**Building Academic Skills**  
**Science**

**SCIENTIFIC METHOD**

**Directions:** The scientific method can serve as an excellent guide for making wise decisions. Read the information that follows about the method and then try applying it to a question in your own life.

- THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD**
1. Define the problem or question to be answered.
  2. Form a hypothesis or possible answer.
  3. Experiment; collect and examine data.
  4. Form a conclusion.

Forming your own family means making important decisions — whom to marry, when to marry, whether to have children, and many more. Making sound decisions is important in order to solve problems and build a strong family life. Here is an example of how Chandler used the scientific method to decide whether he was genuinely in love.

1. **Question.** Chandler asked, “Am I in love?”
2. **Hypothesis.** Chandler proposed, “I believe I am in love.”
3. **Testing the Hypothesis.** Chandler used a checklist to examine his feelings.

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feelings developed gradually and have lasted.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Loved one accepted as is, with no desire to change her.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Feelings remain when apart.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Her needs come before my own.<br><input type="checkbox"/> I have a happy outlook on life and zest for work. | <input type="checkbox"/> Feelings based on many traits, both desirable and less desirable.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Confident about her commitment to relationship.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Differences between the two of us are accepted.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Problems are faced directly.<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Confidence in our relationship gives us both patience. |
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4. **Conclusion.** Because Chandler checked only four of the ten characteristics, he concluded that his feelings were not a lasting form of love.

**APPLICATION**

Use the scientific method to answer one of the following questions. Follow the example given. Create a checklist to use in collecting data for Step 3.

1. Am I ready for a steady relationship?
2. Am I ready for marriage?
3. Are \_\_\_\_\_ and I compatible?
4. Do I want to be a parent someday?