

ACTIVITIES: Be a Water Witch ... Scientist!

How can you find out if dowsing really works? Here are some scientific ways to evaluate dowsing.

- Set up a science experiment!
 - Materials:
 - Water hose (hooked to faucet)
 - Dowsing rods (at least 3 types; 2 wood & 1 metal)
 - Blindfold
 - 3 people: Dowser, Scientist, Witness
 - *Measuring tape (optional)

- Apply the scientific method to a dowsing experiment? (Remember, the key to scientific testing is the ability to test and repeat an experiment. If a dowsing technique works every time when done exactly the same way, can we say it is scientifically valid?)
 - Question: Does dowsing or water witching really work?
 - Hypothesis: (What do you think the answer to the question is?)
 - The Experiment:
 1. The Scientist snakes the water hose through a yard.
 2. The Scientist turns the water on.
 3. The Scientist blindfolds the dowser.
 4. The Dowser uses one of the 3 dowsing rods to find the water hose. (Stepping on the hose does not count.)
 5. The Witness and Scientist judge whether or not the find is valid or true and record data.
 - Use data sheet provided to record data:
 - “Science Experiment Record: 1” – choose yes or no to record data. This is the answer to the question: “Did the dowser find the water hose?”
 - “Science Experiment Record: 2” – similar to 1 with the addition of measuring how far away the dowser is from the hose. You may find similarities in measurement.
 6. The Dowser repeats two more times with the same type of rod.
 7. Repeat steps 4 – 6 with the 2nd type of rod.
 8. Repeat steps 4 – 6 with the 3rd type of rod.

- Psychology tells us that the power of suggestion is very strong. Sometimes a phenomenon known as ideomotor action (subconscious thoughts cause involuntary movement) causes the rods to act.

- You can learn more about dowsing from the [American Society of Dowsers](http://www.newhampshire.com/dowsers.org) (www.newhampshire.com/dowsers.org).