



Apologetics for Parents, Session #7

Topics Covered:

- A) The Scientific Method
- B) Several Key Materialist Scientists reveal their “a-priori” aversion to a Creator

A) **The Scientific Method**

a. **Definition of Sciences**

- i. **Scientia (Latin):** General Knowledge, of any area of life that can be known.
 - 1. Known: Something personally observed or experienced.
 - 2. Realms of Knowledge: Physical, Mental (Soul, Mind, Psyche), Spiritual.

ii. **Physical Science**

- 1. Present Observations (empirical) about present and measurable physical processes and rates.

2. Can only provide speculations about events in the past or future (since they are not presently observable, testable, measurable, or repeatable).
3. **Limitations:** Speculations are based on assumptions about the past or the future, and always incorporate a person's presuppositions. The realms of the mind, soul, spirit are by definition outside of physical sciences.

b. Key Contributors to the Scientific Method:

1. **Roger Bacon** (1214 - 1294) was one of the earliest European scholars to refine the scientific method.

He developed the idea of making observations, hypothesizing and then experimenting to test the hypothesis. In addition, he documented his experiments meticulously so that other scientists could repeat his experiments and verify his results.

2. **Francis Bacon** (1561 - 1626), was one of the greatest movers behind the development of the scientific method.

He reiterated the importance of induction as part of the scientific method, believing that all scientific discovery should proceed through a process of observation, experimentation, analysis and inductive reasoning, to apply the findings to the universe as a whole. He also believed that experimental evidence could be used to eliminate conflicting theories and move closer to the truth.

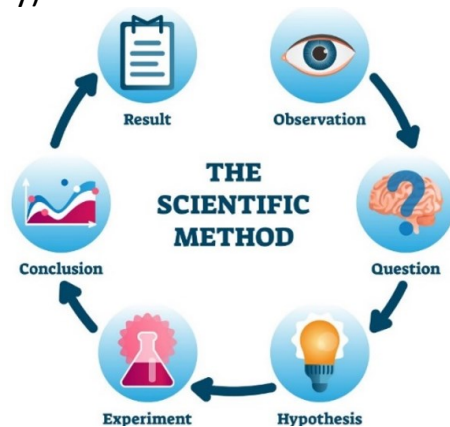
3. **Karl Popper (1902 – 1994)** postulated that science advances through a process of "conjecture and refutations;" that a theoretical scientist would develop a theory and an empirical [observational] scientist would attempt to test it to destruction.

For this to happen, the theory had to be '**falsifiable**'. If the theory could not be properly tested by science, then it could not be scientific. Popper's main point of attack was establishing that science was **not infallible**. Well-established scientific disciplines often followed the wrong path and generated incorrect theories.

Unfalsifiable Example: An unfalsifiable hypothesis is one where no amount of testing can prove it wrong. An example might be the psychic who claims the experiment to test their powers of ESP failed because the scientific instruments (or observations) were interfering with their abilities.

c. The Scientific Method -- process:

1. **Observation**
2. **Question about observation**
3. **Hypothesis** (best guess for explanation, must be falsifiable)
4. **Experiment** (Create Test & measure for repeatability)
5. **Conclusion**
6. **Record & Publish Results**
7. **Repeat** (as necessary)



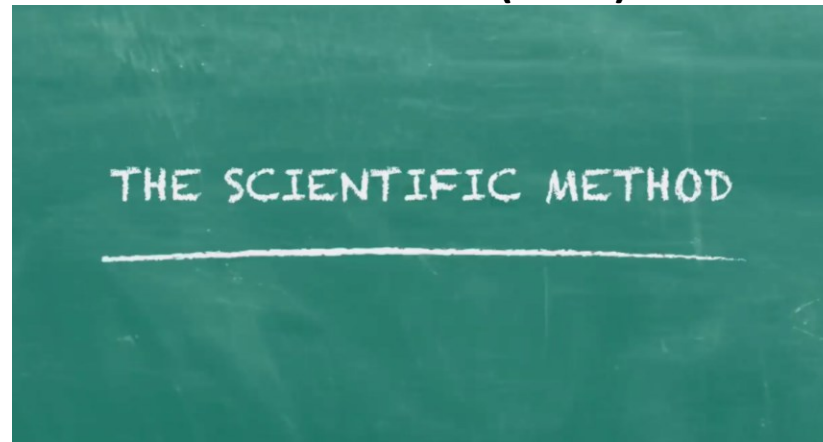
d. Video Summaries: (click Images to start videos)

1. Inductive Logic, The Foundation of The Scientific Method (9min) -- Click Image



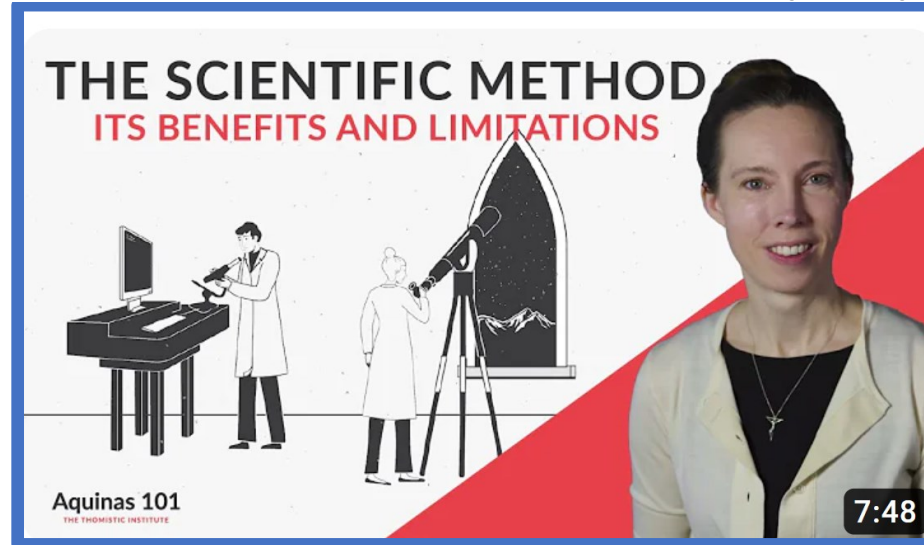
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WAdpPABoTzE>

2. The Scientific Method Overview (4min) – click image:



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMGRe824kak>

3. The Scientific Method's Benefits and Limits: (8min) -- click image



<https://youtu.be/b6mJIZaEy5g>

B) Several Key Materialist Scientists openly confirm:

- a. **Two Key Scientists state that they hold an “a-priori” rejection to a Creator.**
Note: “a-priori” means “assumed, desired, and prior to adequate evidence”
- b. **One also acknowledges that “Evolution” is not observational science, but a “tentative narrative” (ie, a constructed story).**

c. George Wald (A Leading American Scientist, *Atheist- Pantheist*), 1954:

“The reasonable [materialist’s] view was to believe in spontaneous generation [i.e., primordial evolution]; the only alternative [was] to believe in a single, primary act of supernatural creation. *There is no third position.* For this reason, many scientists a century ago **chose** to regard the belief in spontaneous generation [i.e., primordial evolution] as a "philosophical necessity" **unwilling** to accept the alternative belief in special creation [i.e, a Creator].”

(Scientific American, Origin of Life, George Wald, 1954-08-01, p48)

d. Richard Lewontin (evolutionary biologist, Harvard Prof., mathematician, 1977):

“Our willingness to accept scientific claims that are **against common sense** is the key to an understanding of the real struggle between science and the supernatural. We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for **unsubstantiated just-so stories**, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism Moreover, [our] materialism is absolute, for **we cannot allow a Divine Foot** in the door.

Billions and Billions of Demons | by Richard C. Lewontin | The New York Review of Books (1997)

e. Ernst Mayr, A leading evolutionary biologist, 2000

“... Evolutionary biology, in contrast with physics and chemistry, **is a historical science** — the evolutionist attempts to explain events and processes that have already taken place. **Laws and experiments are inappropriate techniques** for the explication [explanation] of such events and processes. Instead, one [ie, the Materialistic Scientist] **constructs a historical narrative [ie, a story], consisting of a tentative reconstruction of the particular scenario that [leads] to the events one is trying to explain.**”

"Darwin's Influence on Modern Thought," Scientific American, July 2000, p. 80