

Identify the Controls and Variables

Scenario #1:



Smithers thinks that a special juice will increase the productivity of workers. He creates two groups of 50 workers each and assigns each group the same task (in this case, they're supposed to staple a set of papers). **Group A** is given the special juice to drink while they work. **Group B** is not given the special juice. After an hour, Smithers counts how many stacks of papers each group has made.

Group A made 1,587 stacks

Group B made 2,113 stacks.

Identify the:

1. Control Group: _____
2. Independent Variable: _____
3. Dependent Variable: _____
4. What should Smithers' conclusion be? _____
5. How could this experiment be improved? _____

Scenario #2:



Homer notices that his shower is covered in a strange green slime. His friend Barney tells him that coconut juice will get rid of the green slime. Homer decides to check this out by spraying half of the shower with coconut juice. He sprays the other half of the shower with water. After 3 days of "treatment" there is no change in the appearance of the green slime on either side of the shower.

6. What was the initial observation?

Identify the:

7. Control Group: _____
8. Independent Variable: _____
9. Dependent Variable: _____
10. What should Homer's conclusion be? _____

Scenario #3:



Bart believes that mice exposed to microwaves will become extra strong (maybe he's been reading too much Radioactive Man). He decides to perform this experiment by placing 10 mice in a microwave for 10 seconds. He compared these 10 mice to another 10 mice that had not been exposed. His test consisted of a heavy block of wood that blocked the mouse food. He found that 8 out of 10 of the microwaved mice were able to push the block away. 7 out of 10 of the non-microwaved mice were able to do the same.

Identify the:

11. Control Group: _____

12. Independent Variable: _____

13. Dependent Variable: _____

14. What should Bart's conclusion be? _____

15. How could Bart's experiment be improved? _____

Scenario #4:



Krusty was told that a certain itching powder was the newest best thing on the market; it even claims to cause 50% longer lasting itches. Interested in this product, he buys the itching powder and compares it to his usual product. One test subject (**A**) is sprinkled with the original itching powder, and another test subject (**B**) was sprinkled with the Experimental itching powder.

Subject A reported having itches for 30 minutes.

Subject B reported to have itches for 45 minutes.

Identify the:

16. Control Group: _____

17. Independent Variable: _____

18. Dependent Variable: _____

19. Explain whether the data supports the advertisements claims about its product. _____
