What is Science?!

Brad Hubeny

Science Definition

- A branch of knowledge or study, especially one concerned with establishing and systematizing facts, principles, and methods, as by experiments and hypotheses.
  - Webster’s Dictionary

Key Assumption: Everything in the natural world behaves according to comprehensible laws AND scientific concepts that can be tested.

For Contrast...

- Technology is the practical application of knowledge
  - Random House Dictionary

- Religion is a set of beliefs concerning the cause, nature, and purpose of the universe
  - Random House Dictionary

An example...

- Kitzmiller v. Dover trial, 2005
- Can ID be taught in Dover, PA public school biology classes as an alternative to Darwin’s evolution theory?
- Judge John Jones III ruled that it cannot because ID by definition is not a science.
- Why not?

The Scientific Method

- Initial Observation
- Hypothesis
- Revised Hypothesis
- Test
- Prediction

Testability is key!!

- Any idea that cannot, at least possibly, be disproven (tested) is NOT SCIENTIFIC!

Also Note:

- Theory: Scientific idea supported by A LOT of evidence.
- Law: Statement that some aspect of nature is always observed.