

SCIENCE IS NOT...

- **The absolute truth.** Scientific knowledge is only our current best approximation based on all available evidence. In science, no explanations are considered “proven.” All explanations are open to replacement or refinement, if warranted by new evidence. Yet most scientific knowledge is durable, and has withstood the test of time and extensive critique by peers.
- **Democratic.** Science is not based on how many people vote for an idea, it’s based on the evidence. It doesn’t matter how many scientists there are with a particular opinion—the evidence is what counts. It’s also not the authority of the scientist, but the quality of the evidence that provides the strength of the argument.
- **Anthropocentric.** In science, we try not to limit our view to only seeing things in nature that are related to human survival. Nature was not made for us, we co-evolved together on this planet. Therefore, scientists avoid attributing particular aspects of nature to their potential benefit for humans. Scientists also try to stay away from viewing other organisms’ behavior as reflecting human-like intentions and feelings.
- **A single “Scientific Method.”** There is no one method for doing science. Science involves many different steps and procedures, depending on the field of science and the question being investigated. The process of science is exciting, complex, and unpredictable. It involves many different people, engaged in a variety of activities that can occur in many different sequences.