Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Scientific Method

Controls and Variables – Part 1

SpongeBob and his Bikini Bottom pals have been busy doing a little research. Read the

description for each experiment and answer the questions.

1 - Patty Power

Mr. Krabbs wants to make Bikini Bottom a nicer place to live. He has created a new sauce that he

thinks will reduce the production of body gas associated with eating crabby patties from the Krusty

Krab. He recruits 100 customers with a history of gas problems. He has 50 of them (Group A) eat

crabby patties with the new sauce. The other 50 (Group B) eat crabby patties with sauce that looks just

like new sauce but is really just mixture of mayonnaise and food coloring. Both groups were told that

they were getting the sauce that would reduce gas production. Two hours after eating the crabby

patties, 30 customers in group A reported having fewer gas problems and 8 customers in group B

reported having fewer gas problems.

Which people are in the control group?

What is the independent variable?

What is the dependent variable?

What should Mr. Krabs’ conclusion be?

Why do you think 8 people in group B reported feeling better?

2 – Slimotosis

Sponge Bob notices that his pal Gary is suffering from slimotosis, which occurs when the shell

develops a nasty slime and gives off a horrible odor. His friend Patrick tells him that rubbing seaweed

on the shell is the perfect cure, while Sandy says that drinking Dr. Kelp will be a better cure. Sponge

Bob decides to test this cure by rubbing Gary with seaweed for 1 week and having him drink Dr. Kelp.

After a week of treatment, the slime is gone and Gary’s shell smells better.

What was the initial observation?

What is the independent variable?

What is the dependent variable?

What should Sponge Bob’s conclusion be?

3 – Marshmallow Muscles

Larry was told that a certain muscle cream was the newest best thing on the market and claims to

double a person’s muscle power when used as part of a muscle-building workout. Interested in this

product, he buys the special muscle cream and recruits Patrick and SpongeBob to help him with an

experiment. Larry develops a special marshmallow weight-lifting program for Patrick and SpongeBob.

He meets with them once every day for a period of 2 weeks and keeps track of their results. Before

each session Patrick’s arms and back are lathered in the muscle cream, while Sponge Bob’s arms and

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Time | Patrick | SpongeBob |  |
| Initial  Amount | 18 | 5 |  |
| After 1  week | 24 | 9 |  |
| After 2  weeks | 33 | 17 |  |

back are lathered with the regular lotion.

Which person is in the control group?

What is the independent variable?

What is the dependent variable?

What should Larry’s conclusion be?

4 – Microwave Miracle

Patrick believes that fish that eat food exposed to

microwaves will become smarter and would be

able to swim through a maze faster. He decides

to perform an experiment by placing fish food in

a microwave for 20 seconds. He has the fish

swim through a maze and records the time it

takes for each one to make it to the end. He feeds

the special food to 10 fish and gives regular food

to 10 others. After 1 week, he has the fish swim

through the maze again and records the times for

each.

What was Patrick’s hypothesis?

Which fish are in the control group?

What is the independent variable?

What is the dependent variable?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fish | Before | After |
| 1 | 1:06 | 1:00 |
| 2 | 1:54 | 1:20 |
| 3 | 2:04 | 1:57 |
| 4 | 2:15 | 2:20 |
| 5 | 1:27 | 1:20 |
| 6 | 1:45 | 1:40 |
| 7 | 1:00 | 1:15 |
| 8 | 1:28 | 1:26 |
| 9 | 1:09 | 1:00 |
| 10 | 2:00 | 1:43 |

Look at the results in the charts. What should Patrick’s

conclusion be?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Fish | Before | After |
| 1 | 1:09 | 1:08 |
| 2 | 1:45 | 1:30 |
| 3 | 2:00 | 2:05 |
| 4 | 1:30 | 1:23 |
| 5 | 1:28 | 1:24 |
| 6 | 2:09 | 2:00 |
| 7 | 1:25 | 1:19 |
| 8 | 1:00 | 1:15 |
| 9 | 2:04 | 1:57 |
| 10 | 1:34 | 1:30 |

Special Food Group (Time in min:sec) Regular Food Group (Time in min:sec)