Lab Investigation Activity

Students will understand the scientific method steps using colorful items available.

Supplies:

- Bags, clear

Small items of various colors (3 to 5).

- Buttons
- Candies (Gummy Bears, M&M' s, Reece's Pieces)
- Marbles
- Rocks

Option: Download and print images of any of the items above on a color printer.

Before class:

- Add a small amount of one of the items into small bags enough for each lab group.

Activity:

1. Divide the class into lab groups.
2. Distribute **The Scientific Method for Food Science Experiments** handout.
3. Distribute one bag (or image) of items to each group.
4. Remind students not eat the candy if using food items.
5. Instruct the students to complete the handout using the items before them.

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Example:

1. Question - Identify the problem. State it clearly as a question.
   What questions could they ask about the items?
   What do they want to find out about the items?

2. Hypothesis - Form a hypothesis based on information gathered.
   Students may predict an amount of items.
   Students may predict a certain number of a color.

3. Experiment - Test the hypothesis through experiment and/or observation. Collect data.
   Instruct students to count:
   The total amount of items
   The total of each color
4. Analyze Data- Evaluate all the information gathered. Include tables, graphs and photographs.
   Use Microsoft™ Word or Excel to create charts, graphs or tables.
   Graph paper may also be used if a computer is not available.

5. Conclusions - Draw conclusions based on the results.
   Was their hypothesis correct?