**THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD**

- The scientific method is a logical process of a problem solving applied in all sciences. It involves seven steps.

To see exactly how the scientific method works, consider the following of some interesting research by Judith Kearins( 1981) in Western Australia.

1. identify the area of research and form a research aim : kearins wished to discover whether the skills of aboriginal people in visual tasks ( especially visual memory) were better than those of other Australians.
2. identify the research question: Kearins asked the question: " is there a difference in visual memory between Aboriginal Australians and other Australians?"
3. formulate a hypothesis: The researcher formed the hypothesis that: the visual memory of Aboriginal Australians would be superior to that of other Australians.
4. design a research method to test the hypothesis: Participants were 44 Aboriginal adolescent and 44 non Aboriginal Australian adolescent. Kearins developed a test of visual memory in which 20 objects were placed on a board that was diided into 20 squares. After looking at the objects for 30 seconds. participants were asked to recall as many items as they could. The experiment was repeated using different types of objects
5. collect and analyse data: It was found that, on average, the Aboriginal adolescents recalled more than 16 items while the other participants recalled fewer than 12 items.This difference was found to be stratistically significant.
6. draw a conclusion ( accept or reject the hypothesis) : Kearins concluded that the culture and the experience of the Aboriginal Australians caused them to have superior visual memory to other Australians.
7. Repeat the experiment to test the reliability of the previous conclusion: using a similar method, Klitch and Davidson ( 1983) performed research on scholl children and found similar results.