

HOW RESEARCH WORKS

UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF **SCIENCE**

Scientists ask questions about how the world works. Each research advance builds on past discoveries, often in unexpected ways. This process isn't always a straight path. But here's a general overview:



THE **BIG PICTURE**

Each finding is often a small piece of a larger puzzle. It may take data from many different researchers to start piecing the full puzzle together. Science is constantly evolving, and our understanding changes.

FORMING



Over time, enough evidence accumulates to point toward an explanation of all the different findings on a topic.

SHARING DATA

To tell other scientists what they've found, researchers give presentations at meetings and publish papers in scientific journals.

more complex than the findings of a single study.
research results fit together.

MORE QUESTIONS

Some research might not answer the scientists' original questions. But the knowledge gained may help answer other questions. And new findings raise new questions.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

www.nih.gov/understanding-science