

Comparison Table

② Overall Concept Scientific Explanations of the Natural World

② Concept Scientific Theory

② Concept Scientific Law

- ③ Characteristics
- Broad explanations for WHY or HOW a wide range of phenomena occurs
 - Widely accepted in the scientific community
 - Based on repeated experimental observations
 - Supported by a large body of scientific evidence
 - Can change with more evidence
 - Will, most likely, not become a law

- ③ Characteristics
- Description of WHAT an observed phenomenon is like
 - Widely accepted in the scientific community
 - Based on repeated experimental observations
 - Supported by a large body of scientific evidence
 - Unlikely to change
 - Does not start as a theory

⑧ Extensions

Research a specific example of a scientific theory and a scientific law. Determine if they both contain the characteristics described in this device.

- ④ Like Characteristics
- Widely accepted in the scientific community
 - Based on repeated experimental observations
 - Supported by scientific evidence

- ⑤ Like Categories
- Level of acceptance
 - Criteria they are based upon
 - Use of evidence

- | | |
|---|--|
| ⑥ Unlike Characteristics | ⑥ Unlike Characteristics |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broad WHY or HOW explanation of phenomena • Can change with more evidence • Will, most likely, not become a law | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Description of WHAT an observed phenomenon is like • Unlikely to change • Does not start as a theory |

- ⑦ Unlike Categories
- Type of question answered
 - Modifications
 - Origins

⑧ Summary

Scientific theories and scientific laws are scientific ideas that are alike in the level of acceptance, criteria, and use of evidence. Scientific theories and laws are different in the question they answer, modification, and origin.

Comparison Table

② Overall Concept

② Concept

② Concept

③ Characteristics

③ Characteristics

③ Extensions

④ Like Characteristics

⑤ Like Categories

⑥ Unlike Characteristics

⑦ Unlike Categories

⑧ Summary