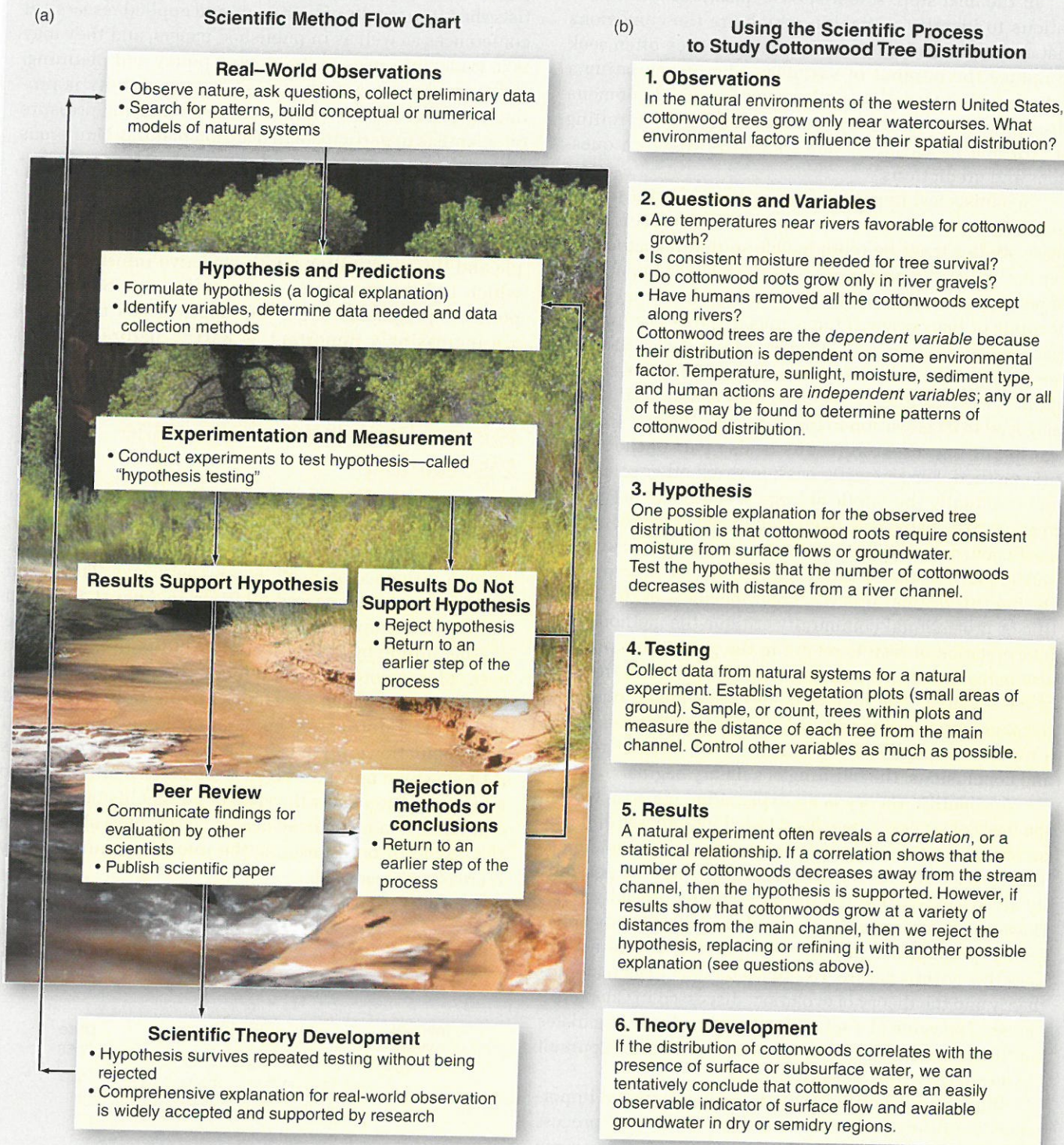




▲Figure 1.3 Scientific method flow chart and example application. [Ginger Birkeland.]

inquiry; scientists in different fields and even in different subfields of physical geography may approach their scientific testing in different ways. However, the end result must be a conclusion that is reproducible by other scientists, and that can be tested repeatedly and possibly shown as true or as false. Without this characteristic, it is not science.

Using the Scientific Method Scientists who study the physical environment begin with the clues they see in nature, followed by an exploration of the relevant published scientific literature on their topic. Brainstorming with others, continued observation, and preliminary data collection may occur at this stage.