

Have students brainstorm responses in a group, such as finding food and water or finding matches to start a fire.

Then, have students write a problem of their own (using the brainstormed responses above) and attempt to solve it using the scientific method.

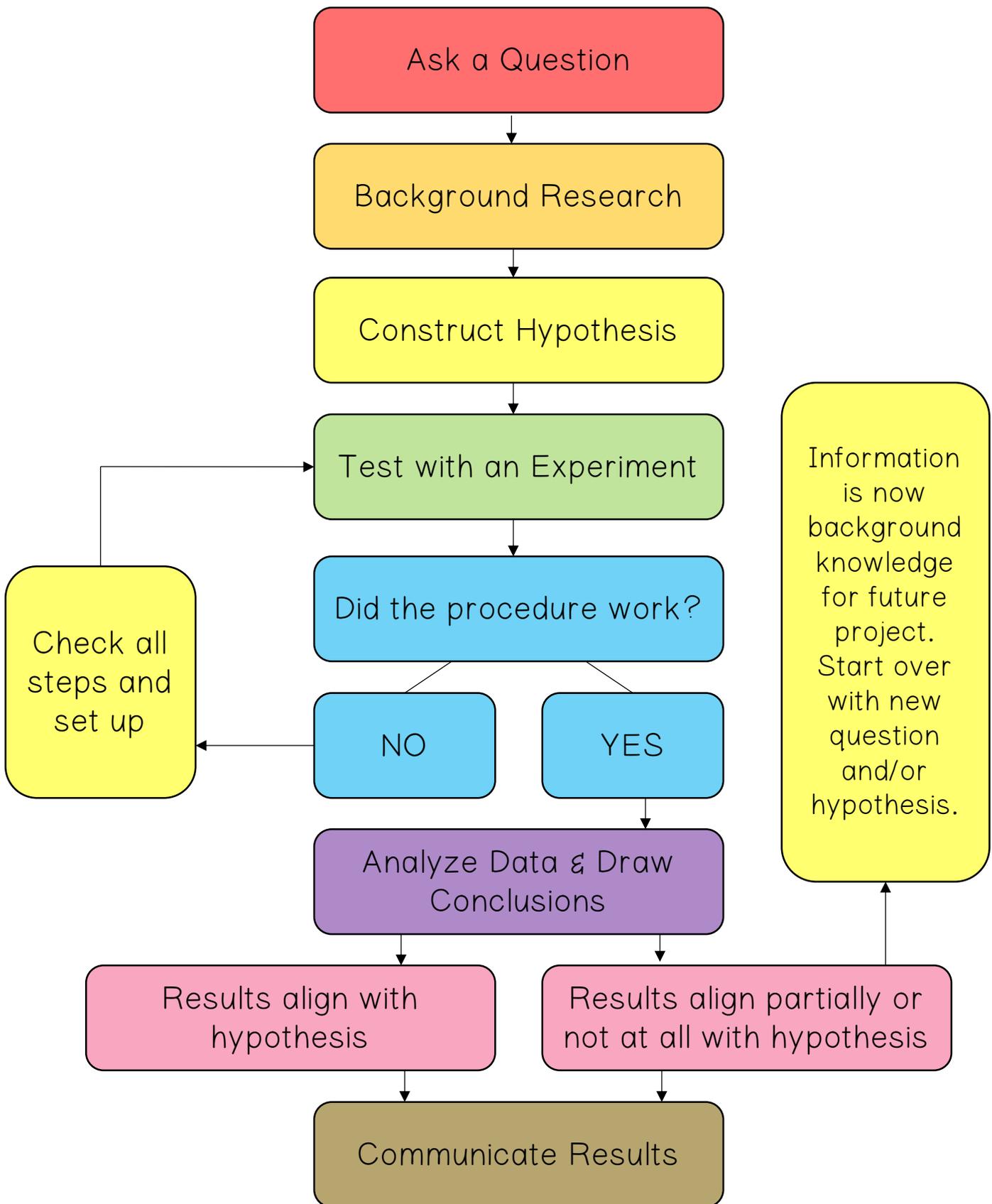
The problems and their solutions will be varied, and they may lead to the creation of new problems and situations.

For instance, students may choose finding food and water as their problem, so they will need to be able to identify plants that are safe to eat (another problem). The solution is that they may be able to watch what animals eat. They may need to find a way to capture and kill animals for meat, such as using traps made from vines, spears, or slingshots. They will also need to develop a system to collect clean and safe drinking water, etc.

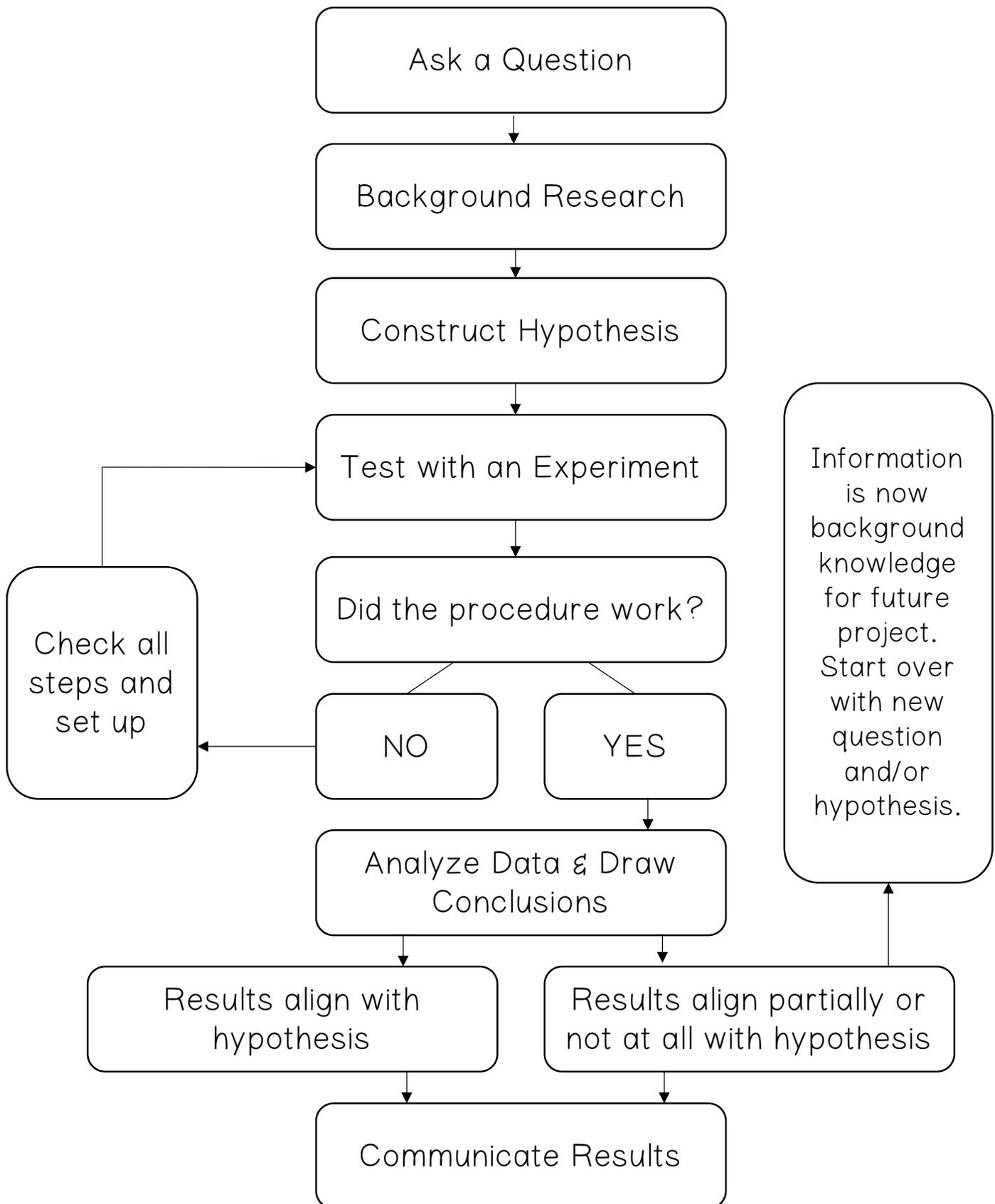
When students are finished, have them share out what they came up with, along with how they were able to use the scientific method.

If desired, have students incorporate the process skills for each part of the scientific method too.

The Scientific Method



The Scientific Method



Using the Scientific Method to Solve Nonscientific Problems

You are flying on a small plane across the state to visit your grandparents in the mountains for summer vacation. Only you and the pilot are onboard. Somewhere over the mountains the pilot has a heart attack. The pilot crash-lands the plane into a lush forest at the base of a mountain. You survive the crash. You are alone and have no way of calling for help. What must you do to survive until the rescuers arrive?(adapted from the novel *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen)