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Biology: _____
Date: _____

Unit I
Biology and the Scientific Method
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I

Caffeine and Mold

Purpose: Students will follow scientific methods to solve a problem. The question to be answered is:
Does caffeine in coffee prevent mold growth?

Safety Cautions:
Wash hands thoroughly after experiment

Materials:
2 small jars
graduated cylinders
caffeinated coffee
decaffeinated coffee
masking tape to make two small labels

Procedure:

1. Write a hypothesis for the experiment in the space below.
2. Write your initials and #1 on one label. Write your initials and #2 on the other label. Place the labels on the jars.
3. In jar #1 add 30 mL of caffeinated coffee. In jar #2 add 30 mL of decaffeinated coffee.
4. Identify the control group and the experimental group in the space below.
5. Place both jars, uncovered in the same location. You will make daily observations of your jars for one week checking for the presence of mold.
6. Create a suitable data table that you can use to track the **daily** results of the experiment. You must also have a column for a drawing of your jar each day.
7. Record your observations in your data table by giving descriptions and making diagrams of the coffee liquid surfaces.
8. After 5 days, when the experiment is finished, clean-up all supplies thoroughly with soap and water to prevent the growth of mold.

Lab Report

Hypothesis:

Control Group:

Experimental Group:
