

Choosing Your Topic and Your Question:

In order to help you find a question that you will enjoy working with

for the next few months, you will need to follow a few steps.

* Log on to [www.sciencebuddies.org](http://www.sciencebuddies.org) to help you decide what your science fair project will be about.
	+ Go to the “Topic Selection Wizard” to answer some questions about things you are interested in, and the wizard will come up with some ideas for you!
	+ Also, if you look at the “Science Fair Project Ideas” you can look though hundreds of science fair project ideas.
* Once you find a topic, you will need to write down the question you want to answer. (**Remember:**  Your question has to be something you can test!)

The Question You Will Research:

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Evaluating Your Question:

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| --- | --- |
| What Makes a Good Science Fair Project Question? | For a Good Science Fair Project Question, You Should Answer “Yes” to Every Question |
| Is the topic interesting enough to read about, then work on for the next couple of months? | YES / NO |
| Can you find at least 3 sources of information on your topic? | YES / NO |
| Can you measure changes to the variables (things that you will change) in the experiment that you will design?  | YES / NO |
| Can you design a “fair test” to answer your question? In other words, can you change only one factor (variable) at a time, and control other fractions that might influence your experiment to that they do not interfere with your results? | YES / NO |
| Is your question safe to test? | YES / NO |
| Can you get all of the materials that you will need? | YES / NO |
| Do you have enough time to do your experiment at least three times before the science fair?  | YES / NO |

Background Research Plan:

What is the question you are going to answer with an experiment? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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What are some keywords that might help guide your research?

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Use the question starters below to help you develop at least two or three questions you need to answer in order to help you design your experiment.

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| --- | --- |
| Why? | Why does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happen?  |
| How? | How does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happen?How does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ happen? How do we use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?  |
| Who? | Who needs \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?Who discovered \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_? Who invented \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?  |
| What? | What causes \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to increase/decrease?What is the relationship between \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?What do we use \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for? |
| When? | When does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ cause \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?When was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ discovered? |
| Where? | Where does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ occur?Where does \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ get used? |

Where Will You Find Your Research?

Choose from the following websites to guide your research:

* PBS Kids: [www.pbskids.org](http://www.pbskids.org/)
* Bill Nye’s Website: [www.billnye.com](http://www.billnye.com)
* Time for Kids (check out the science articles!): [www.timeforkids.com](http://www.timeforkids.com/)
* Discovery Channel for Kids: [www.kids.discovery.com](http://www.kids.discovery.com/)
* Popular Science: [www.popsci.com](http://www.popsci.com)
* Science News for Kids: <http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/>
* Brain POP: <http://www.brainpop.com/> (Ask for the password)
* Physics for Kids: <http://www.physics4kids.com/>
* Biology for Kids: <http://biology4kids.com/>
* Chemistry for Kids: <http://www.chem4kids.com/>
* Yahoo Science Page for Kids: <http://kids.yahoo.com/science>
* NASA for Kids: <http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/kidsclub/flash/index.html>
* NASA’s Spanish Page : <http://ciencia.nasa.gov/>
* Science Kids at Home: <http://www.sciencekidsathome.com/science_topics/>

Then take notes below on the information you find to answer the questions you wrote. ***(Choose at least 3 from the list in the table on the previous page)***

**Question 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Information I found to about this question…

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**Question 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Information I found to about this question…

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**Question 3:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Information I found to about this question…

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Citing your sources:

You must use information from at least two websites and *one book*.

Make sure to take down ALL of the information below for EVERY

resource you use.

**Website #1:**

Author (if available): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date you looked at the website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Full web address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Website #2:**

Author (if available): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Name of the website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date you looked at the website: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Books Used:

Make sure to take down ALL of the information below for EVERY resource you use.

* Author Look on the cover to find this information
* Title of the book
* Publisher
* Location of the publisher Look on the first few pages to find this information
* Year the book was published

**Book #1:**

Author: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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