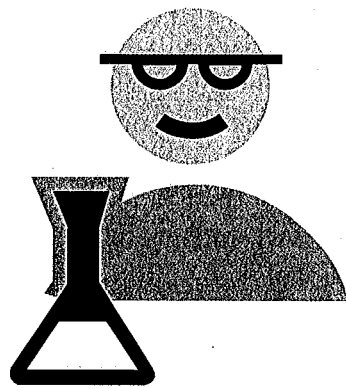


Big Country Elementary Science Fair



First-Fifth

Exhibit Specifications

RULES

No live animals

No dangerous or flammable materials

Display can not exceed 36" H x 60" W

Projects must include a report

Project ideas must have teacher approval

Do not have your name displayed on the front or in your report

Pictures cannot show faces

QUALITY – what makes an outstanding science project for the elementary level?

Knowledge – understanding the project and being able to talk about it

Creativity – experimenting with something that interests the student. There are many ideas available in the library and on the internet. Volcanoes are not considered projects but instead are displays or models.

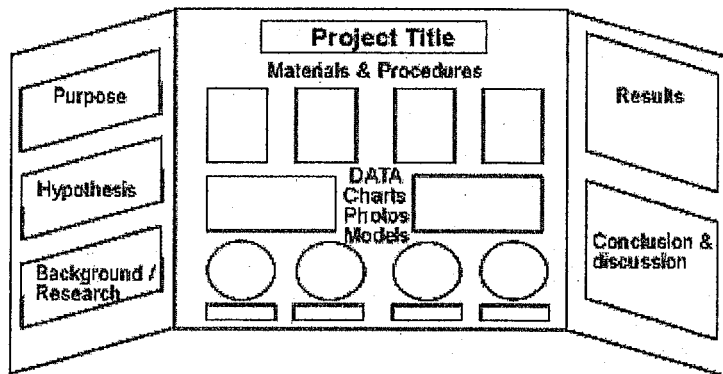
Thoroughness – the inclusion of a written report

Neatness – lettering should be neat and extra marks erased. Use colorful paper to mount information on the display board

Accuracy – be sure information gathered is accurately reported

Scientific Method – projects should identify the steps of the scientific method –

1. Ask question
2. Do background research
3. Develop a hypothesis (an educated guess)
4. Do your experiment (testing the hypothesis)
5. Look at data and draw conclusions
6. Communicate and/or display your results.

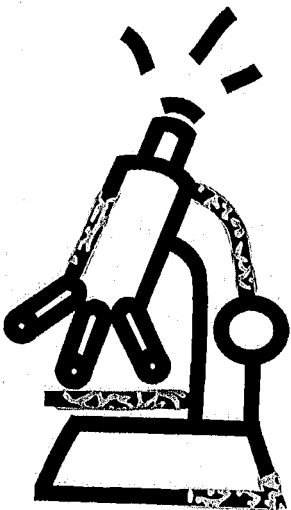


Science Fair Projects – Do's and Don'ts

Very often parents think that winning an award is the goal for science fair competitions. The purpose of the science fair is to allow students to apply science through the scientific method. Every child who participates in the science fair is a winner.

DO's

- Encourage your child to participate
- Ask to see science project related information that your child does in school
- Allow your child to conduct the experiment
- Allow your child to write their report - let them use their own words
- Offer to help locate sources of information
- Help your child acquire materials
- Insist your child practice safety
- Help construct a realistic timeline



DON'TS

- Do not do the work for your child – this is your child's project
- Do not encourage your child to do a common project – ex. Volcanoes
- Do not make the focus of the experiment the competition
- Do not copy materials that are copyright protected

6. WRITE A REPORT

Write a detailed report about your project. Tell exactly what you did, how you did it, and what you discovered. Be sure to write about your plan, your experiment and include your data. Be sure you include background information and what you have learned.

7. MAKE YOUR DISPLAY

The display is crucial to success during the science fair. It explains and displays your work and your project. The display must be neat and well organized. It should include background information, the problem, your hypothesis, your procedure, your results, your conclusion, your report and any graphs and charts you've created. You can include photos or drawings of your experiments. Remember, photos may not show your face.

8. REHEARSE YOUR PRESENTATION

When you make your presentation to the judges, it is important that you are prepared and know what you are going to say before you say it. By rehearsing your presentation, you get an opportunity to work the bugs out and begin to feel comfortable talking about your project. You should start rehearsing by yourself, and then find volunteers to be mock judges and present to them. You will be calmer and more composed on the day of the science fair if you are prepared and know what you want to say.

9. DO YOUR BEST!

During the judging, be calm and natural. Know what you are talking about and be confident – you will do great!

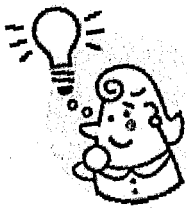
PROJECT HINTS

Here are some additional project hints!

CHOOSE A TOPIC THAT INTERESTS YOU – you will enjoy the experience more and be happier doing the project.

DO YOUR OWN WORK – it is fine to get help and ideas, **BUT**, remember the project is to be your work, not someone else's.

GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME – follow the timeline and plan. This will allow you to do quality work and get the most from the experience.



Science Project Ideas

Identifying flavors when blindfolded – Kool-Aid, gum, sodas

Which toy car rolls farther?

Which bread molds more quickly?

Do different apples have different numbers of seeds?

Which materials dissolve in water?

Which materials conduct heat best?

Which paper towel absorbs more water?

Do large pieces of fruit have more seeds than smaller pieces of fruit?

Do coins change in salt water? Soda? Juice?

How does vinegar affect eggshells?

Does ice melt faster when it is crushed?

Does soda melt ice quicker than water?

In which kind of soil do plants grow best?

Do the same plants like the same type of soil?

Identifying magnetic and non-magnetic materials

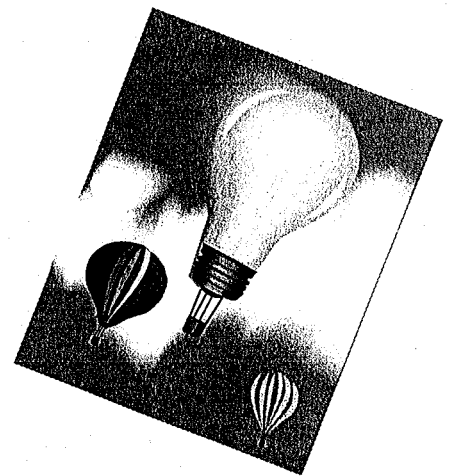
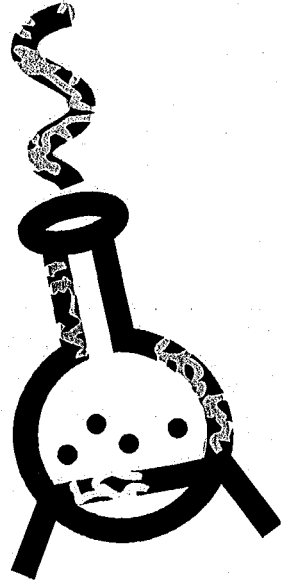
Testing a sundial against a clock

Which battery lasts longer?

What holds materials together better – nail, screw, glue?

Do bananas brown faster on the counter or in the refrigerator?

What color of birdseed do birds like best?



For more science fair ideas, go to the Big Country website and click "STUDENTS"

Scientific Method Outline

State the Problem: What do I want to find out?

Write the Hypothesis: What do I think will happen?

Design the Experiment: How can I test what I think will happen?

Materials:

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Procedure:

Record and analyze the data: What happened?

Draw Conclusions: What did I find out and how does it compare with what I thought would happen?

Science Fair Questions and Brief Write-up

Student _____

Question to be researched and experimented _____

What is the purpose of this experiment? Why is it important to society?

Brief write-up of how the experiment will be conducted:

Parent Signature _____