

Science Fair Project Ideas

The best science project is one that answers a question for you! Did you ever wonder how something works? Or what causes things that happen in the environment? Now is the time to find out. Here are some suggestions to help you come up with a project idea:

1. **Visit the science section of the library and look at science books and magazines** (such as National Geographic Kids, Discover, Popular Science, or Popular Mechanics). Pick a science topic that interests you, and then **use what you know about that topic to generate a question about something you don't know**. For instance, you may know that water evaporates. You may wonder what determines whether or not water will evaporate. You can refine that question to make it testable. For instance, what has the most impact on water evaporation – climate or temperature?
2. **When you are reading the newspaper, think of a science question related to current events**. For instance, crops die because of droughts – consider a project on growing plants to determine what types can grow without much water. Oil spills can cause serious damage to our natural resources and wildlife – explore how to clean oil out of water.
3. **Think about ways to test the truthfulness of the claims you hear or see on commercials**. For instance, does one laundry soap really clean dirt better than another? Can kids tell the difference between two types of cake mixes?

For inspiration, here is a list of science inquiry questions related to science units at each grade level. You do not need to pick one of these – these ideas are provided to help you generate your own idea. Remember, the idea behind your project is to practice the skills of scientific inquiry.

Grade 5

- How does the mass of a structure affect how much mass it can hold?
- How does the size of magnets affect the number of paper clips that can be held?
- How does the color of a dollhouse affect the internal temperature when placed in sunlight?
- Which brand of battery really is the longest lasting?
- If one battery weighs twice as much as another, will it last twice as long?
- Trace a genetic trait (i.e. eye color) through several generations in your family and see if you can find a trend.
- What is the best predictor of someone's height? Is it their hand size, hat size, shoe size, or belt size?
- Do magnets affect plants?

Internet Resources for Science Fair Ideas

[Discovery Science Fair Central](#)

[Internet Public Library for Kids](#)

[The Exploratorium Learning Studio Science Fair Guide](#)

[Library of Congress Science Fair Resources](#)

[NASA: Science Fair Projects](#)