

Science Fair: School-Home Connection

Dear Parent or Guardian,

We will be holding our school science fair on _____. Participating in a science fair is an enjoyable way for students to learn how to conduct experiments to solve problems. Students will make displays that show how they went about conducting their experiments.

This science fair is not quite like the science fairs you may have experienced. While models and modeling are important to science, we are not encouraging students to display models of such things as volcanoes and the solar system. Instead, we are encouraging them to ask questions and then to set up experiments to answer those questions. In this way, they learn to approach science as scientists do.

I will be sending home more information from time to time, but in the meantime, I would like to suggest how you might support your child's progress on his or her project.

- Talk to your son or daughter about what he or she might be interested in finding out. Work together to formulate a question that can be answered by setting up an experiment.
- Take your son or daughter to the library or help him or her search online for information about the topic.
- Help your son or daughter think about an experiment that would help answer the project question.
- Help gather the materials necessary to conduct the experiment. Observe and ask questions as your son or daughter carries out the experiment, but be careful not to conduct the experiment or draw conclusions.
- Help with gathering materials for the project display. Allow your son or daughter to make the display with only some help from you.

Obviously, we want the projects to be done by the students and not by their parents, but this can be a good time for a parent and child to work together. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Writing Your Science Fair Project Report

Your project report communicates to others how you did your experiment and what you found out from it. This is where you use your notes and observations from your experiment.

An Outline for Your Project Report

- 1. Cover Page** In the upper middle of the page, write the title of your project or your project question. Also include your name on the cover page.
- 2. Project Question** Begin your report by stating your project question.
- 3. Hypothesis** State your hypothesis.
- 4. Research** Write about what you found out from books, the Web, and other resources that helped you design an experiment and answer your project question.
- 5. Experiment Plan** Describe the design for your experiment. Be sure to describe the variables and how you set up a fair test.
- 6. Procedure** Describe how you carried out your experiment and what you found out.
- 7. Present Data** Include your data tables and graphs.
- 8. Conclusions** Compare your results to your hypothesis. Did your findings support your hypothesis or not?
- 9. Bibliography** Write your bibliography. A bibliography includes the names of books, magazines, websites, and other resources you used for your project.

Science Fair Project Time Line

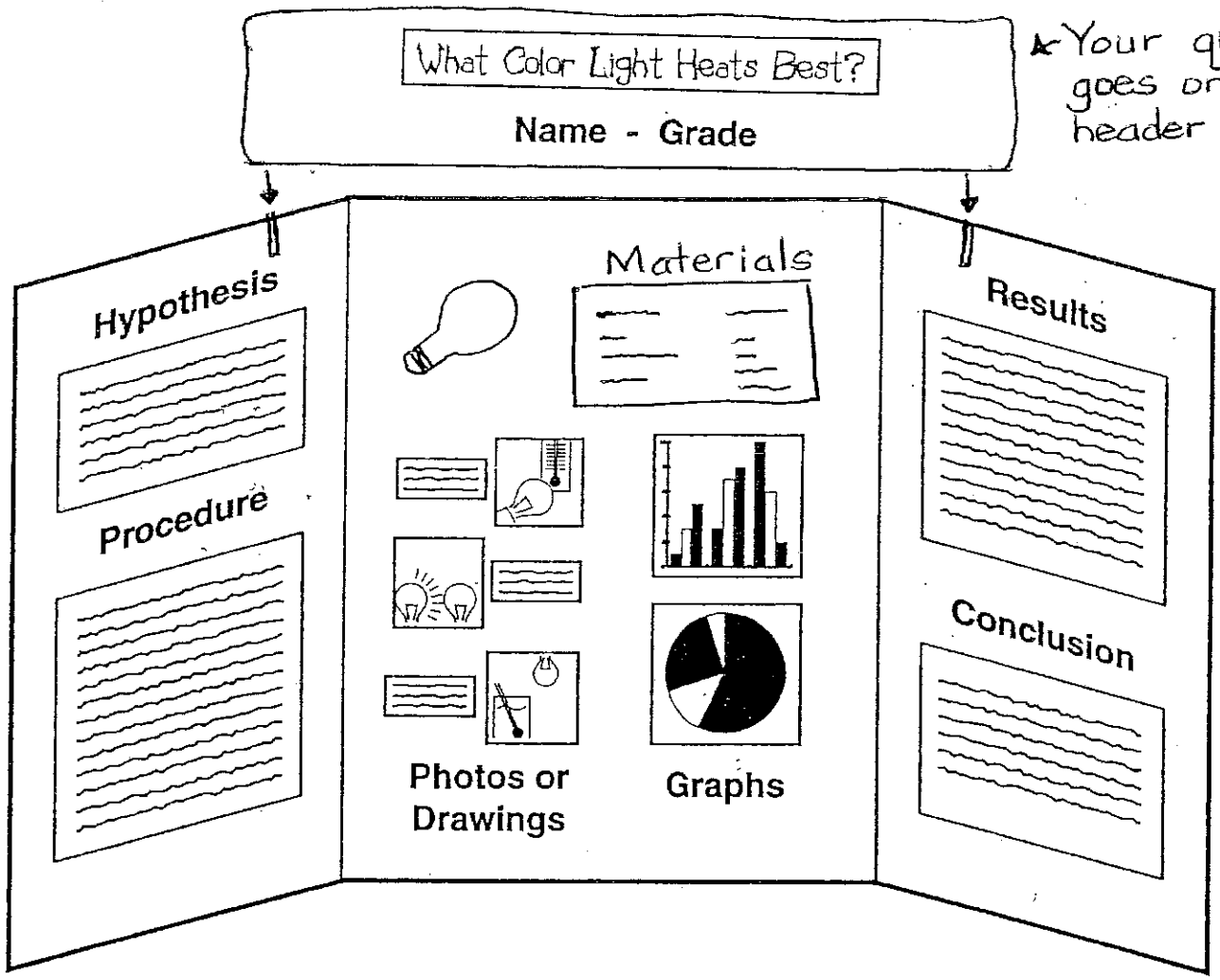
Date of the Science Fair _____

Date Due	Date Completed	Things to Do
		Choose a topic and write a project question.
		Research the topic by using books, the Internet, and other resources.
		Write a hypothesis.
		Design an experiment to test the hypothesis.
		Conduct the experiment and record observations.
		Make a table, or chart, for data. Draw one or more graphs of the data.
		Write the project report.
		Make the project display, or exhibit.
		Present the project at the science fair.
		Other:

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Making Your Project Display

Your project display will communicate to others what your project was all about. The display should be three-sided and have a brief description of the various parts of your investigation. You can make your display from poster board or use a ready-made project display board. The pages that follow offer you an outline for a summary for your project display and a guide to writing a longer project report. Adapt your display to make it the best for your own project.



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