Flagler County Public Library Science Fair Resource Guide

Welcome to the Flagler County Public Library Science Fair Resource Guide. You will find a wealth of information and resources to help you succeed. The library is your helpful gateway to information about science projects. Use these resources anytime, anywhere you have an Internet connection and enjoy your science fair! If you need assistance in choosing a topic or researching your project; the Library is here to help. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact the Children’s or Young Adult Department at 386-446-6763.

A Science Fair is an opportunity for students to use the skills they have learned in science. A science fair project gives you hands-on experience and knowledge in areas such as biology, chemistry, physics, health, environmental, technology and math. It is an exciting assignment that allows you to use your own ideas or a topic that you develop with your teacher to investigate a scientific problem or question that interests you. You will not only be learning about a specific field of science and acquiring a unique skill in this field, but also getting to know what it would be like to work in this field as an adult.

Importance of Science

Students often increase certain aptitudes after they have taken science throughout their educational career. These skills and abilities often include:

- Gathering information by listening, observing, inquiring, researching and investigating.
- Putting information in order by comparing, contrasting, classifying and organizing.
- Creation by planning, designing, inventing and integrating ideas.
- Manipulative by handling materials/instruments.
- Communicative by transferring information from one person to another.
- Problem-solving by increasing logic and reasoning skills.

Tips for a successful science fair project

1. **Choose a topic that interests you.** There is nothing worse than having to do a project on a topic that does not peak your interest. If you want to have fun, learn, and get a good grade, choose something that YOU want to do. Science encompasses everything within our universe. It should not be difficult to find a topic that fascinates you.

2. **Do your own work.** You will not learn anything or feel a sense of accomplishment if you have your parents or partner do the majority of the work. When people ask you questions and you don’t know
what to say because you did not do the work, you will be very embarrassed, not to mention the risk of receiving a poor grade for the project.

3. **Plan your time wisely.** There is nothing advantageous about doing your work at the last minute. All kinds of things can and will go wrong.

4. **Make sure you read and adhere to all your teacher’s rules.** Read directions carefully, ask questions and have FUN!

**Resources**

Most teachers will require you to find a certain number of resources to support your project. To accomplish this task, we suggest the following:

- Utilize the databases located in the Library’s *Electronic Library.* Offers two excellent on-line resources available remotely 24/7.
- Visit the library. The library has many books available to help you accomplish your goals.
- Encyclopedias
- Non-fiction books and periodicals
- Use other online search engines such as *Google* and *Yahoo.* *Caution:* remember when using online search engines that not all information may be accurate. You will need to evaluate if it is **good reliable** information.

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<tr>
<th>Good References</th>
<th>Bad References</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Material comes from a credible source</td>
<td>Material is from a source with poor reliability</td>
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<tr>
<td>Information is current</td>
<td>Information is out-of-date</td>
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<td>Information is free of errors</td>
<td>Information is prone to errors</td>
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<td>Properly cites the original source of all information</td>
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<td>Difficult for others to obtain</td>
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To help you understand the purpose of the Science Fair and getting involved in making your project a success, the following online websites also include information on the Scientific method which is the basis of the program.

*The Science Fair:*


*Discovery Education:*

## Research Information

**Book Series**
Flagler County Public Library carries several science series which will provide you with experiment ideas and information to support your project. They include, but are NOT limited to, the following:

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<th>Children’s Series</th>
<th>Young Adult Series</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Psyched for Science</td>
<td>- Biology Projects Using the Scientific Method</td>
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<td>- SCi-Hi</td>
<td>- Earth Science Projects Using the Scientific Method</td>
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<td>- Janice Van Cleave</td>
<td>- Physics Science Projects Using the Scientific Method</td>
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<td>- Simple Science Experiments</td>
<td>- Team Green Science Projects</td>
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<td>- Super Science</td>
<td>- Ace Your Science Projects</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Living Science</td>
<td>- Easy Genius Science Projects</td>
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### Science Fair Websites
These resources are meant to help you choose your topic and provide you with some good ideas. But, please do not rely on them for exact experiments. Use your own knowledge and ingenuity to create something unique and interesting.

- **Discovery Education** http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/
- **Steve Spangler** http://www.stevespangler.com/
- **Super Science Fair Center** http://scifair.org/
- **Science Kids** http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/
- **PBS Kids, Dragonfly TV** http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/scifair/
- **American Museum of Natural History** http://www.amnh.org/ology/

### Useful keywords for searching:
- Science Projects
- Science Fair
- Science Experiments
- Subjects: i.e. plant experiments

### Additional Websites
These links are meant to help you find information to support your research and experiments.

- **Science Learning Network** http://www.sln.org/resources/index.html
- **Discovery Kids** http://kids.discovery.com/
- **Science 4 Kids** http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/
- **Brain Pop** http://www.brainpop.com/science/
- **Dr. Art’s Guide to Science** http://www.guidetoscience.net/cs/drart/print/docs/drart/home.htm
- **Internet Public Library for Kids** http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/
- **Science News for Kids** http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/category/life/
- **All Experts** http://en.allexperts.com/c/science/
- **Cosmos4Kids** http://www.cosmos4kids.com/
- **Biology4Kids** http://www.biology4kids.com/
- **Chem4Kids** http://www.chem4kids.com/
- **Physics4Kid** http://www.physics4kids.com/
- **NumberNut** http://www.numbernut.com/
Science Fair Safety

After choosing your project make sure you speak with your teacher about how to proceed, what equipment you will need, and how to do it safely. Things to consider are:

- Where will the experiment be performed? Do you need ventilation?
- What safety gear will be used? Should you wear gloves and eye protection?
- Will an adult be present?

PLEASE NOTE:

All external websites are listed for your browsing convenience only. Flagler County Public Library does not endorse nor is it responsible for the content of any of the listed sites.