



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.

Good References

Material comes from a credible source

Information is current

Information is free of errors

Properly cites the original source of all information

Easy for other people to find or obtain

Bad References

Material is from a source with poor reliability

Information is out-of-date

Information is prone to errors

Does not cite the source of information

Difficult for others to obtain

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:

http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com/science_fair_projects_coach/science-fair-1.html

Discovery Education:

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>

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:

Children's Series

- *Psyched for Science*
- *SCi-Hi*
- *Janice Van Cleave*
- *Simple Science Experiments*
- *Super Science*
- *Living Science*

Young Adult Series

- *Biology Projects Using the Scientific Method*
- *Earth Science Projects Using the Scientific Method*
- *Physics Science Projects Using the Scientific Method*
- *Team Green Science Projects*
- *Ace Your Science Projects*
- *Easy Genius Science Projects*

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

Steve Spangler

Super Science Fair Center

Science Kids

PBS Kids, Dragonfly TV

American Museum of Natural History

<http://school.discoveryeducation.com/sciencefaircentral/>

<http://www.stevespangler.com/>

<http://scifair.org/>

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/>

<http://pbskids.org/dragonflytv/scifair/>

<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

Discovery Kids

Science 4 Kids

Brain Pop

Dr. Art's Guide to Science

Internet Public Library for Kids

Science News for Kids

All Experts

Cosmos4Kids

Biology4Kids

Chem4Kids

Physics4Kid

NumberNut

<http://www.sln.org/resources/index.html>

<http://kids.discovery.com/>

<http://www.ars.usda.gov/is/kids/>

<http://www.brainpop.com/science/>

<http://www.guidetoscience.net/cs/drart/print/docs/drart/home.htm>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/>

<http://www.sciencenewsforkids.org/category/life/>

<http://en.allexperts.com/c/science/>

<http://www.cosmos4kids.com/>

<http://www.biology4kids.com/>

<http://www.chem4kids.com/>

<http://www.physics4kids.com/>

<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.