

Science Project Ideas

Your science fair project should begin with a topic and a specific question that interests you. The question does not need to be complicated; keep it simple. Select a question that can be answered with a simple experiment.

Example questions are provided below. Possible experiments follow in italics.

- Movement
 - Why do wheels work? *Is there a difference between how fast different shaped wheels can spin?*
 - Why do bowling alleys have a smooth shiny floor? *Is there a difference between how fast balls roll on the floor versus the carpet or between two kinds of carpet?*
- Light
 - Why do shadows appear behind objects when light shines on them? *Is there a difference between shadow size when you hold the light at different angles? Is there a difference in shadows between translucent and opaque objects?*
 - Why does grass turn yellow when sunlight cannot reach it? *Does grass turn different colors when it is in sunlight versus shade or dark?*
- Water
 - Why does an ice cube float? *Do ice cubes made of different substances float at different heights?*
 - How does soap clean greasy dishes? *Is there a difference between how well different brands of soap work on grease? Is there a difference between how well soap cleans grease versus other food?*
 - Why do heavy metal ships float but small rocks sink? *Is there a difference between the shape of objects that float and the shape of objects that sink? Could you design a heavy object that floats?*
- Air
 - Why does a hot air balloon rise into the sky? *Is there a difference in how high balloons of different colors rise?*
 - Why does a parachute fall down to earth slowly? *Is there a difference between how fast parachutes made of paper versus cloth float from the same height?*
 - How does the shape of a paper airplane help it fly through the air? *Is there a difference in flight speed or length between different styles of paper airplanes?*
- Our bodies
 - Why do people get colds? *Is there a difference between how many colds people get if they take vitamins or if they don't?*
 - What makes the heart pump faster? *Is there a difference between people's heart rate after they jump up and down versus when they are sitting still?*
- Plants & animals
 - Do temperature changes affect insects? *Do worms/crickets/ladybugs behave differently in warm versus cold air?*
 - How do worms move? *Is there a difference between how far worms bury in wet versus dry soil? Sand versus soil?*