

For Grades K-3, the focus of the science investigation is to ask a question, gather data, sort and classify, notice any patterns and draw a conclusion about a pattern found or a collection they make.

Kindergarten

- How many different shapes of leaves are there?
- Track changes in the shape of the moon
- How many different kinds of butterflies are there? Compare size, patterns on wings (Pacific Science Center Butterfly Garden is open year-round)
- Observe the daily behaviors of a pet (cat, dog, hamster, bird, iguana, snake, etc...)
- How do you grow a plant? Keep a record of the changes in the plant. Growing two different kinds of plants would allow for greater comparisons.

First Grade/Second Grade

- How many different sizes, shapes, colors of seeds are there?
- Sink/Float experiment – do hard-boiled eggs float? Do all kinds of raw eggs (still in the shell) float?
- What affect does salt have on ice? Does adding salt to crushed ice change its temperature?
- Do all popsicles melt at the same rate?
- How many hours of daylight?
- Exploration of “color wonder” crayon/marker/finger paint type products
- Explore the phases of the moon – (can look online when weather doesn’t permit observation)
- Building a model of something too big or too small to study, e.g. solar system, volcano, tide pool

Third Grade (*3rd graders may choose to do a controlled investigation from 4th or 5th grade; however, students are just learning the investigative process in 3rd grade)

- What is the Aurora Borealis (northern lights)? What is the best time of year and location to see it? What causes it?
- What chemicals are in sunscreen? How do they protect your skin?
- What kinds of tape have the best “stickiness”? Compare various types of tape or brands of the same type of tape
- How do different types of tape compare when used on the same surface?
- What kinds of glue have the best “stickiness”? Compare different types of glue or brands of the same type of glue
- How do different types of glue compare when used on the same surface?

Fourth and fifth grade students are expected to complete an entire scientific investigation using the inquiry process taught in science class.

Fourth/Fifth Grade

- How much liquid can a diaper hold? Investigate different brands... Dissect diapers to determine how much “gel” is inside.
- How does the amount of light affect seed germination?
- How does the amount of light affect plant growth?
- How does temperature affect plant growth?
- How does fertilizer affect plant growth?
- How does de-icer on an icy sidewalk affect the freezing temperature of water?
- How does the amount of de-icer on an icy sidewalk affect the freezing temperature?
- How much water do different brands of paper towels absorb?