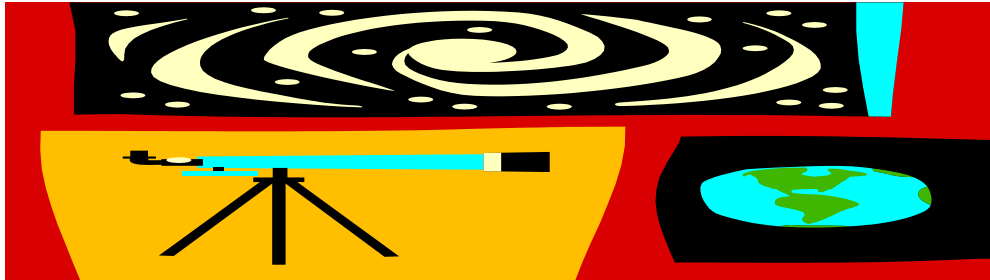


## South Loop 2011-2012 6<sup>th</sup> grade Science Fair Project



Welcome back to school! We will jumpstart our creativity and science skills as we choose our science fair projects and begin our work! The 6th grade science fair will be held on Thursday December 8th, so now is the time to start collecting ideas for a fun and successful science fair.

### **Project Selection:**

Students will begin the brainstorming process for their projects in class. However, students must review their ideas with parents/guardians to make sure that the project is acceptable to the parent, student, and teacher. All projects must be approved by Mr. Kacena before any further work is done.

### **Helpful Hints:**

\*First of all, find something that is interesting to you! This is a large project that we will be working on from now until December. Don't worry though, the project is broken down into sections that have different due dates. We will work on projects and timelines in class and I am available before and after school for additional help.

\*Make sure that you have or can get all the necessary materials for your project. Don't pick a project using a telescope if you cannot find or get access to a telescope.

\*Do not try to use a past project that you, a friend, or sibling has already done. You can use those ideas to go more in depth. For example, if your brother did an experiment on how fast plants grow in different levels of sunlight, you could do a project using different types of light (sunlight vs. black light).

\*One of the best opportunities in science fair is that this is the time and place to expand your horizons and learn new information. So make sure that your project is at least at a 6th grade level. Easy, simple projects that do not challenge you will not be fun and will not be approved.

## **2010-2011 Exhibit Guidelines:**

- The final exhibit must not exceed dimensions of 76 cm deep and 122 cm wide. **No part of the exhibit whatsoever may be placed on the floor.**
- Construct your own exhibit. **Teachers and parents are to provide only the necessary guidance, encouragement and suggestions to help the student succeed on his or her own.**
- All lettering should be neat and very easy to read. Do NOT make spelling mistakes on your final presentation.
- Your presentation should be interesting so that it grabs the attention of people who see it. You must include graphs and pictures.
- Objects or draperies may not be attached to the exhibit. Also, no lighting of any type may be used to illuminate the exhibit.
- All equipment and materials are exhibited at the risk of the exhibitor. The Science Fair Exhibits Committee, Chicago Public Schools, and the Museum of Science and Industry assume no responsibility for loss or damage to equipment or materials.

### **Student Resources:**

Students will be expected to work on the majority of their projects independently. Mr. Kacena will be available most days before and after school to provide additional assistance and feedback. **You, the student, are responsible to ask for help.** Please do not wait or hesitate to ask for help.

### **Internet sources:**

- [www.chicagostudentsciencefair.org](http://www.chicagostudentsciencefair.org)
- <http://chemistry.about.com/od/sciencefairprojects/u/sciencefair.htm>
- <http://www.sciencefairprojects.cc/free-sciencefairprojects.html>
- <http://www.freesciencefairproject.com/>
- [www.all-science-fair-projects.com](http://www.all-science-fair-projects.com)

These are just a few websites that contain some really good ideas.

### **Other Sources:**

- Chicago Public Libraries
- South Loop Elementary School Library

If students wish to purchase a book, Barnes & Noble and Borders carry a few books with science fair experiments.

## Research Paper



The research paper that will be done for the Science Fair Project allows students to demonstrate their understanding of what they have learned as well as to develop and practice writing skills. Research should be done using respectable websites, books, and magazine articles. **Wikipedia will NOT be accepted as a source for any reason.** We will discuss, model, and practice how to properly use sources of information in writing.

Example of a respectable website: [www.biology4kids.com](http://www.biology4kids.com).

Example of a respectable book: Science Voyages This can be found in Mr. Kacena's room.

Example of a respectable magazine: National Geographic

Sixth grade students will submit their boards and research projects by the final due date of Monday, December 5th.

The research paper should use a minimum of two sources and all sources should be properly documented in the paper. Plagiarism, the representation of someone else's work as your own work is a serious academic violation. **Do NOT copy and paste on from the internet.** Also, make sure your writing is showing your skill with your own words and not someone else's.

**If you aren't sure if you plagiarized, ask your teacher before you submit your final draft. Any papers that are submitted showing plagiarism will receive a zero.**



### **Checklist for the research paper:**

- Title page
- Table of Contents
- Acknowledgements
- Purpose and hypothesis
- Review of Literature
- Materials and Procedure
- Results and Conclusion
- References
- Log of the experiment
- Extensive explanation of the experiment and procedure
- Background research explaining the facts and details of the subject of the experiment

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade/Homeroom \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Science Fair Brainstorm and Project Selection



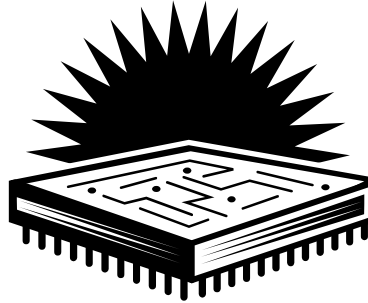
**I am most interested in the following areas of science (circle two):**

1. Plants/Botany
2. Rocks/Geology
3. Animals/Biology
4. Computer Science/Technology
5. People/Behavioral Science
6. Other (Explain):

**I have or know I can get the following materials that I might want to use for my project:**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

## South Loop Science Fair Contract



Initial each line:

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I am required to complete a Science Fair Project that represents my own work and ideas.

\_\_\_\_\_ A final, typed research paper must be submitted along with a display board.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will present an oral presentation of my research and experiment to the class.

\_\_\_\_\_ Three drafts of the research paper will be submitted so that I can be sure I have done my very best work.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that I cannot do the exact same project as any other person.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my experiment and project ideas must be approved by my teacher and parent/guardian before I begin any work.

\_\_\_\_\_ I understand that my final project will be counted toward my final science grade.

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian (sign) \_\_\_\_\_

## Science Fair Board 85 possible points

Layout:	/5
Purpose:	/10
Hypothesis:	/10
Materials/Procedure:	/10
Title:	/5
Abstract:	/20
Photos/illustrations:	/5
Results:	/10
Conclusion:	/10

## Sixth Grade Science Fair Timeline



- 09/07/11: Science Fair Brainstorm and Project Selection and Science Fair Contract
- 09/09/11: Purpose of the experiment
- 09/12/11: Hypothesis and Procedure
- 09/16/11: Abstract (This will be worked on and discussed in class)
- 09/27/11: Title of the experiment
- 10/03/11: Research Title Page
- 10/11/11: Purpose and hypothesis
- 10/14/11: Review of Literature
- 10/17/11: Materials and Procedure
- 10/21/11: References
- 10/27/11: Table of Contents and Acknowledgements
- 11/09/11: Results and Conclusions of the experiment
- 11/15/11: Log of the experiment
- 11/21/11: Extensive explanation of the experiment and procedure
- 11/30/11: Background research explaining the facts and details of the subject of the experiment.
- 12/05/11: Complete science fair boards due along with completed research papers.