

Science Project Ideas

Kids, teachers and parents either love or dread the annual science fair project.

Often parents and their children head to the school or the public library to find some new and exciting ideas, or some sure-fire prize winning ideas, or at the very least some quick and easy ideas to submit to their class or school fair.

We hope this quick list will help you find where some of these treasures are in your library!



General Experiments

The first place to look is under the Dewey numbers **507.2** and

507.8. These are the numbers for books that contain lots of different kinds of experiments in just one book. This is a great place to start if you need help deciding on an experiment or tips for making a science fair presentation.

Planets, Stars and Space

If astronomy is what you have set your sights on, you might want to look under the numbers **520** and **520.78**.

There may be some experiments that kids can try based on life and travel in space. You can look in **629.4** and **629.45** for those.



To find more at your library, check the library catalog under headings like “astronomy projects” or “astronomy experiments.”

Electricity, Magnets & Physics “Stuff”

Nothing says experiment to many kids like electricity and batteries. Check out numbers like **537** for electricity and **538** for magnets – although you will often find books with both topics together.

Experiments with light, gravity and optics can be found in the **530s**.

Geology and Weather

Making an erupting volcano and lots of other great ideas can be found in the **550s**.



The numbers **551.5** and **551.6** are the places to look for building weather instruments and other cool projects on tornadoes, lightning, and even rainbows.

Turn your rock collection into a great project. Check out books in **552**. Want to grow crystals? Try **548**.

Plants and the Environment

Experiments that involve plants take some time, but they can be a good project to involve the whole family. Generally **581** is a good place to start, but **635**, the gardening area, is good too.

Science fair projects that involve the environment can focus on a wide range of subjects. Using the catalog, you can use the keywords “environment” or “environmental” and the word “project” or “experiment.” You can also use more specific topics, like “pollution,” “conservation,” “ecology” and “recycling.”

Microscopes and Chemistry

Choosing an experiment that involves chemistry will probably mean more help from an adult, especially for younger children. But many books that give ideas using everyday household objects can be located in the **540s** on the library shelves. Look especially in the Dewey numbers **540** and **547**.



Microscopes offer a fascinating new look at familiar objects. Check out **502.8**, **576** and **578**.

Having trouble deciding on a topic?

*Need help finding some sources
to help you?*

*Can't find information on a topic
you have chosen?*

*Who are you going to call?
Your Librarian!*

And don't forget Internet sources.
Your librarian will be able to help
you find some reliable websites to
help you decide on your topic or
give you more information on a
topic you have already selected.
Articles in periodicals are another
source of great information that
your librarian can help you
access.

And your librarian is only a
phone call or e-mail away!



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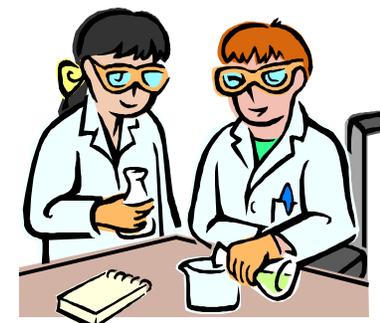
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At your library