



BROOKSIDE SCIENCE FAIR

How To Do an Experiment Using the Scientific Method



Here are six simple steps to completing a successful science fair experiment:

Step 1 Choose a Topic/ Ask a Question (I wonder....)

Choose a topic and decide on a question you want to find the answer to. This is the purpose of your experiment. What do you want to find out? What are you interested in learning about? Hint: A good scientific question can usually be stated in this form:
How does _____ affect _____?

If you need help, the library has many books with project ideas. There are also lots of good resources on the internet. Start at our PTA website: www.brooksidepta.org where we have many web links listed on our Science page.

Step 2 Make a Prediction (I think...)

Make a guess or a hypothesis about what you think the answer to your question might be. This should be written as a complete sentence. Predictions can begin, "I think..." or "I believe..." Next, think of how you can do an experiment to test your prediction. Remember there isn't a "wrong" answer -- make a guess, try it out and see what happens!

Step 3 Materials (I used...)

Give a list of the materials and equipment you used for your experiment.

Step 4 Procedure (I did...)

Do the experiment! The procedure is like a recipe; write a simple step-by-step list explaining what you did. Be sure to include the amounts of each item used, and how they were measured. Your procedure should be clear enough that someone else could follow it and get the same results.

Step 5 Observe the Results (I learned...)

Did you answer your question? What did you find out? Show what you learned by making a table, chart, or graph, drawing a diagram or picture and listing your conclusions.

Step 6 Create your Display (I show...)

Create a display showing all of the above steps 1-5. Ask for your free tri-fold display board from the PTA and see attached directions on "Displaying Your Science Project".