

STEPS FOR A WINNING SCIENCE PROJECT

1. DECIDE ON A TOPIC

- What area of science interests you?
- What type of project and information would you like to learn about and share with others?
- Have you made sure that your project is an experiment, not a demonstration?

2. GATHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TOPIC

- Use WYLD Cat (library catalog) and online databases to begin your search.
- Browse the shelves where most of the science books are located.

3. ESTABLISH YOUR GOALS AND FORM YOUR HYPOTHESIS

- What is the purpose of your project?
- What do you think you will discover?

4. SET UP AND CONDUCT YOUR EXPERIMENT

- Allow plenty of time so that your experiment is accurate.
- Use a notebook and record your findings as you develop your experiment.

5. WRITE THE RESEARCH REPORT

- Your notes and bibliography will help make this step easy.

6. PLAN AND CREATE YOUR VISUAL EXHIBIT

- Decide how you will show others what you have set up and what you have discovered.

7. WRITE A STATEMENT OF HOW YOU WILL PRESENT YOUR PROJECT TO THE JUDGES

- Record your conclusions in a logical and orderly form.
- Know exactly what you want to say based on what you might ask if you were a judge.

8. REVIEW THE JUDGES' SCORE SHEET INCLUDED IN THE INFORMATION PACKET FROM THE SCHOOL OR THE LIBRARY

- Have you covered all the required criteria for your project?

WAYS TO LOCATE INFORMATION

BEGIN WITH WYLD

Always begin any search for information using WYLD, the library's computer catalog. You can use WYLD to access the catalogs of the Laramie County Library System and many other libraries around the state. Several magazine databases can be accessed from WYLD.

BROWSE THE SHELVES

Browsing the shelves where most of the science project books are located can help you find a new or unusual topic. Look for the science wizard label on the spine of the science books containing project ideas. Please limit your selection to four books.

Frequently used subject headings and their Dewey numbers are:

Astronomy: 520	Math: 510
Biology: 574	Mineralogy and collecting: 549
Chemistry: 540	Physics: 530
Crystals: 548	Plant cells and tissues: 581
Earthquakes and volcanoes: 551	Plants, reproduction: 631.53
Ecology: 574.5	Recycling: 363.728
Electricity: 537	Rocks, identification: 552
Experimental design: 500.2	Science, general experiments: 507
Five senses: 612	Water, experiments: 546
Geology: 550	Water, pollution: 363.7394
Magnetism: 538	Weather: 551

ASK US FOR ASSISTANCE

The staff on the Second Floor is ready and able to answer any questions you may have or to assist you in locating materials (including a special collection of science project books). We're here to help you!

LCLSONLINE.ORG

USE THE INTERNET AS A RESOURCE

The Internet is a great source of information for science projects. Whether at home, school or using the computers available at the library, you're sure to get some great information. Remember that the library staff is here to help you! Just ask us for guidance and we can set you on the right path. To get you started, visit one of these websites:

sciencebuddies.org

Science Buddies is a non-profit organization empowering students from all walks of life to help themselves and each other develop a love of science and an understanding of the scientific method. Use the Topic Selection Wizard to help find science projects and a how-to guide to help complete their science projects.

sciencenews.org/index.asp

Want to turn a current event into a science project? **Science News Online** provides up-to-the-minute information on hot science topics from around the globe.

school.discoveryeducation.com

The Discovery Channel sponsors the **Science Fair Central** site, a fantastic collection of activities and information to stimulate your mind. You can even e-mail science guru Janice VanCleave your science fair questions!

scifair.org

The Ultimate Science Fair Resource is a user-friendly site good for searching for ideas, links, tips on putting your project together and locating hard to find project materials. Check out its idea board for fresh ideas.

LOCATIONS & HOURS

Laramie County Library

2200 Pioneer Avenue • 634.3561

Monday:	10AM-9PM
Tuesday:	10AM-9PM
Wednesday:	10AM-9PM
Thursday:	10AM-9PM
Friday:	10AM-6PM
Saturday:	10AM-6PM
Sunday:	1PM-5PM

Burns Branch Library

112 Main Street • 547.2249

Monday:	9:30AM-5:30PM
Tuesday:	9:30AM-5:30PM
Wednesday:	Closed
Thursday:	9:30AM-7PM
Friday:	9:30AM-5:30PM
Saturday:	9:30AM-12:30PM
Sunday:	Closed

Pine Bluffs Branch Library

110 East 2nd Street • 245.3646

Monday:	Closed
Tuesday:	8:30AM-7PM
Wednesday:	8:30AM-5PM
Thursday:	8:30AM-5PM
Friday:	8:30AM-5PM
Saturday:	8:30AM-12:30PM
Sunday:	Closed

For the bookmobile's hours and information, visit LCLSonline.org or call 307.773.7228.

Science Fair Projects



*A Guide to the Laramie County
Library System's Resources for
Successful Science Fair Projects*

