

Science Fair Project Ideas

Sports Science Projects - Are there any rumors your teammates are passing around about how to improve your game? For example, one teammate might swear by drinking two bottles of a sports drink before a game. Another might believe that shooting hoops with only one eye open drastically improves your chances of making a basket.

Consumer Product Projects - Are you trying to figure out which brand of a certain product works the best? Or do you know someone who is sure he has found the best product on the market? Some products you can test include: bathroom cleaning products, detergents, batteries, hairsprays, paper towels, chewing gum, soaps (look at the number of bacteria on a petri dish), and diapers

Music and Plants - Does music affect how plants grow?

Too Hot or Too Cold? - Do you think that high or low temperatures will affect the sprouting of bean plants?

How Does Pollution Affect Plants? - Does a plant sprout more quickly in a polluted environment?

What is the Difference between Field & Forest Soil? - Do fields and forests have different soil composition? Study the amount of water in different soils, soil salinity, and pH organisms that live in the soil by collecting samples from two or more locations.

How Does Soil Change as it is further in the Earth? - Does the relative wetness of soil from various depths differ?

What do Flowers Need to live? - Use this simple experiment to teach your preschoolers about the things that flowers need to grow.

“But I Work Best With My Mp3 Player On!”- Are you constantly explaining to your parents and teachers that you need music in order to work effectively? Have a large group of people take the same test, some while listening to music and some with nothing but silence. Grade their tests and compare the results.

Bouncing Balls - Why are specific balls used for specific sports?

The Effect of Exercise on Brain Power - Does playing sports make your brain work more effectively?

Blowing the Biggest Bubble - Which brand of chewing gum – or better, bubble gum – lets you blow the biggest bubble?

Does Chewing Gum Help You Concentrate? - Some people say that chewing gum helps them concentrate on their work. Test out that hypothesis with this fun chewing gum science fair project. Make a list of ten pairs of unrelated words, such as “hat, chair,” “street, book,” and “table, tree.” Give a subject thirty seconds to study the words, and then test him by saying the first word and asking him to identify the second word. Then find a different subject and encourage her to complete the same test while chewing gum. Repeat the process numerous times with different subjects, and record how many word pairs each set of subjects got right.

Plant Growth and Magnets - Magnets produce a magnetic field. But does a magnetic field affect living things, like plants? Find out by using this magnet science project. Wet a paper towel and fold it so that it fits the inside of a foam cup. Then slip a bean between the paper towel and the side of the cup. Repeat this process until you have twenty cups. Place the cups indoors in a sunny area. Place a magnet into alternate cups, and mark them “Magnet Beans.” Measure your bean plants daily to see whether the Magnet Beans are growing more quickly or slowly than the other beans. (Take a look at this article for more [bean plant experiments](#).)

Age and Music Volume - Do your parents always complain that your music is on too loud, when you think that the volume level is perfect? This fast and easy science project will help you figure out whether it’s just a difference of opinion, or whether you can blame it on their ages. Find a CD player or MP3 player where the volume is adjusted digitally and there are small gradations between each volume level. Then have ten or fifteen people below the age of twenty listen to music using the player, and note the volume level that they choose. Make sure to write down each piece of data! Then repeat this process with an equal number of people above the age of forty. Calculate the average volume preferred by the younger group by adding up all of their volumes and dividing by the number of younger people in your study. Then do the same thing to find the average volume preferred by the older group. Voila! Your experiment will show whether age affects the volume of music that people feel most comfortable with.

Do Lie Detectors Work? - Lie detectors measure many responses in a person’s body to see whether they’re lying. One of these is the person’s pulse. This is based on the assumption that when people lie, their pulse rate will get higher. You can design an experiment to see if this assumption is true by checking a person’s pulse before lying and after lying. Does the rate increase? Try this several times on numerous people and draw your conclusions about the effectiveness of this aspect of lie detectors.

Color of Print - Does the color of a text affect a person’s reading comprehension? You can test this by printing out the same passage in several different colors, such as black, blue, and yellow. Give each subject a copy of the passage in a different color, and ask them the same questions about the passage. Record the amount of time that it takes for them to correctly answer each question. Then find out whether the average time that it took to answer the questions using one color of text is more or less than the average time it took to answer the questions using another color of text. There’s your conclusion!