Science fair projects for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-11-06

Peabody has 118 free science fair projects for kids from kindergarten to 8th grade, each one a single testable question with the If-Then-Because hypothesis, the materials, the steps, a results table to print and a display board plan. 80 cost nothing. Nothing has a flame, an animal or a chemical off the kitchen list.

Every project, by grade, time and cost

- Project: Does a steeper ramp make a toy car go farther? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Which wing shape flies farthest? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Which floor makes a ball bounce highest? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a bigger parachute fall slower? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a longer string swing slower? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: How much does a rubber band stretch with each extra weight? · Grades: 5th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Which paper bridge shape holds the most coins? · Grades: 2nd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a pointed nose make a straw rocket fly farther? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Which boat shape carries the most pennies? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does more air make a balloon rocket go farther? · Grades: 2nd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: How things move
- Project: Does a longer tail keep a kite steadier? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a longer arm make a catapult throw farther? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a higher start make a marble roll faster? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Does a wider base keep a cup tower from tipping? · Grades: 2nd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
- Project: Which padding keeps a dropped egg from cracking? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: How things move

• Project: Which gives a balloon the most static: hair, wool or cotton? · Grades: 2nd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: How things move
• Project: Which paper towel soaks up the most water? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How much salt does it take to float an egg? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: What melts ice fastest: salt, sugar or sand? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does sugar dissolve faster in warm water? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does more baking soda make a bigger fizz? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: What keeps a cut apple from going brown? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which grows crystals faster: salt or sugar? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 5 days · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which cup keeps an ice cube from melting longest? · Grades: 1st–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does food colouring spread faster in hot water? · Grades: 2nd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does dish soap stop oil and water from separating? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Do the heaviest liquids always sink to the bottom? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Do leaves help celery pull up coloured water? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which bread turns the brownest in the toaster? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does a bigger water drop make letters look bigger? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How much water do bean seeds need to sprout? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 10 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do plants bend toward the window? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 12 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Where does a puddle dry fastest: sun, shade or wind? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 2 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: How does a shadow change through the day? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather

• Project: Which soil lets water through fastest: sand, potting soil or garden soil? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does planting a seed deeper make it slower to come up? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $1 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does grass grow best under red, blue or green light? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does hotter water make a bigger cloud in a jar? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Where does the most rain land: the open yard, under a tree or by the house? · Grades: 2nd–8th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Which colour of paper warms up most in the sun? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a ball dropped from higher bounce higher? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a cold ball bounce lower than a warm one? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: How things move
• Project: Which kind of ball bounces highest? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: How things move
• Project: Which floor slows a toy car the most? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a heavier toy car roll farther? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a paper clip make a plane fly farther? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Do longer blades make a spinner fall slower? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does crumpled paper fall faster than flat paper? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Do bigger hoops make a straw glider fly farther? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a bigger disc make a top spin longer? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a heavier pendulum swing faster? · Grades: 5th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Do dominoes fall faster when farther apart? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $4 · About: How things move
• Project: How much water makes a bottle flip land best? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move

• Project: Does a full bottle roll down a ramp faster? · Grades: 5th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which paper column shape holds the most books? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which shoe grips a slope best? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which material makes the slowest parachute? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Where must pennies sit to balance a ruler? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does crushed ice melt faster than a whole cube? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does ice melt faster in water or in air? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does salty water take longer to freeze? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which liquid dissolves a hard candy fastest? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does stirring make sugar dissolve faster? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does warm water hold more salt than cold? · Grades: 5th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: What softens an eggshell fastest? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 3 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which kitchen liquid cleans an old penny best? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does whole milk swirl farther than skim milk? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does a wider paper strip walk water faster? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How much soap makes the biggest bubble? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How much cornstarch makes oobleck hold a penny? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does more vinegar blow a balloon up bigger? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Do raisins dance longer in fizzy water? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing

• Project: Which filter makes muddy water clearest? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which paper pulls water up the highest? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How many colours hide in a marker's ink? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $2 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: How many drops of water fit on a penny? · Grades: 2nd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which kitchen liquids change red cabbage water? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Does a paper bag make a banana ripen faster? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 4 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Do soaked beans sprout faster? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do seeds sprout faster somewhere warm? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does salty or sugary water change a bean plant? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $2 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do beans grow best in soil, sand or cotton? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a bean grow taller in the dark? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 10 days · Cost: about $2 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do bigger seeds sprout faster? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do crowded seeds grow shorter? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $2 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do green onions regrow best in water or soil? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: about $2 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do potatoes sprout faster in the light or dark? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Which kitchen scrap helps a plant grow most? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 21 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do roots grow down even if you turn the seed? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 7 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do leaves give off more water in sun or shade? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a pinecone close when it gets wet? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 2 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather

• Project: Where is it windiest around your home? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 3 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a colder cup get more drops on its outside? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a cover keep water in the sun warmer? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a shadow grow when the light comes closer? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: How many paper layers block a flashlight? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does slanted light spread wider? · Grades: 5th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: about $1 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a steeper hill wash away more soil? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Do grass roots stop soil washing away? · Grades: 4th–8th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Which paper colour fades fastest in the sun? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 14 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Which ball bounces the most times? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which ice cube melts first: in the sun, in the shade or inside? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: When is my shadow longest: morning, lunch or afternoon? · Grades: K · Testing: 3 days · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Sink or float: does a bigger foil boat carry more blocks? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a higher ramp make a toy car roll farther? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which paper goes farthest: a flat sheet, a ball or a plane? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which soaks up the most: a sponge, a paper towel or a cloth? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Where does grass come up first: a sunny window, a shady room or a dark cupboard? · Grades: K · Testing: 10 days · Cost: about $3 · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Does a toy's shadow get bigger when the flashlight comes closer? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather
• Project: Which paper bridge holds the most blocks: flat, folded once or folded like a fan? · Grades: K · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move

• Project: Which sound makes salt dance on a drum from the farthest away? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a bigger drum feel sound from farther away? · Grades: 3rd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Which wrap muffles the sound of a ticking timer best? · Grades: 2nd–7th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a bigger paper cone help you hear a quiet sound from farther away? · Grades: 1st–5th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does a bigger spoon ring longer when it hangs on a string? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: How things move
• Project: Does more salt make ice water colder? · Grades: 3rd–8th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which makes ice water colder: salt or sugar? · Grades: 2nd–6th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Water, ice and mixing
• Project: Which warms up most in the sun: soil, sand or water? · Grades: 1st–4th · Testing: 1 day · Cost: free · About: Growing and weather

Can't choose? Pick one in four taps

Pick my project asks four questions (your grade, the days until the fair, what you have at home, what you like), each with three big boxes, and hands over one project with the reason. Keep it and Peabody counts down to fair day with a job for each day.

What every project comes with

• The hypothesis frame: If I change ___, then ___ will ___, because ___, with what you change and what you measure filled in.
• The variables card: what you change, what you measure, and at least two things you keep the same.
• Steps read aloud, with any grown-up step marked (cutting with a knife, pouring hot water).
• A results table to print: levels down the side, three tries across, a mean column from 4th grade, and graph paper below.
• A logbook, a conclusion sheet and a board plan for a 36 × 48 inch tri-fold, each section with its size in inches.

The safety rules, kept in code

Every project is checked against the rules school science fairs share before it can be shown: no flames of any kind; no live animals at the fair; don't grow mold or bacteria at home; kitchen chemicals only, in small amounts; projects that test people need a review first. Projects that test people, such as taste tests and reaction times, are left out because every rule set we read

says they need a review first. The rules page names where each rule comes from, and your school's sheet always wins.

By grade

kindergarten · 1st · 2nd · 3rd · 4th · 5th · 6th · 7th · 8th · middle school · high school.
Short on time: a weekend, a week, or the easy ones.

For parents and teachers

The grown-ups' page covers how much to help, what a fair expects at each grade, and a plan from today to fair day. Teachers running a fair can turn a fair date into a timeline, a letter home, a rubric and a class set with the organizer. Peabody is free through the end of 2026, with no ads and no sign-up.

Free at peabody.kids/science-fair-projects-for-kids