

Ready for Science Fair

Objective

Students will explore different ideas for science fair as well as lets them access some good internet resources. Students will visit a variety of different science sites to get ideas for an experiment they would like to do in the science fair. They will have a certain amount of time to explore and will be expected to narrow their focus and fill out a worksheet at the end of the time.

Technology Skill

Navigating the Internet

TEKS - Science

- 3.2a plan and implement descriptive investigations including asking well defined questions, formulating testable hypothesis, and selecting and using equipment and technology
- 3.2b collect information by observing and measuring
- 3.2c analyze and interpret information to construct reasonable explanations from direct and indirect evidence
- 3.2d communicate valid conclusions
- 3.2e construct simple graphs, tables, maps, and charts to organize, examine, and evaluate information
- 3.3b draw inferences based on information related to promotional materials for products and services
- 3.3d evaluate the impact of research on scientific thought, society, and the environment

Duration of lesson

25 - 40 minutes on computer

Materials

- Internet browser such as Safari or Internet Explorer
- Hotlist of science experiment websites, such as:

<http://www.spartechsoftware.com/reeko/>

<http://www.sci.mus.mn.us/sln/tf/nav/thinkingfountain.html>

<http://www.explorelearning.com>

<http://www.thetech.org/exhibits/>

<http://www.ipl.org/div/kidspace/projectguide/>

- Project focus sheet for each student to plan

Prerequisites (teacher and students)

Internet navigation
Use of a Hotlist

Before the Computer (teacher)

Connect to sites to ensure they are working
Create planning sheet listing student expectations to be distributed to students

Activity

Discuss with students your schools science fair policies (or if not for a science fair - discuss purpose of seeking an experiment).
Brainstorm with your class some topics they might be interested in pursuing and discuss sources (books, encyclopedias, web sites).
Explore websites, such as above, to find interesting experiments.
Students complete preliminary planning sheet.

Assessment

Student completed preliminary planning sheet

Adaptation Ideas

Create class database using student selected experiments.
Vote on one experiment to be completed as a class and graph the results.

Extension

Students complete experiments as independent projects and write written explanation

Modification

Students choose an experiment from a pre-made listing.