

Teacher Science Project Planning Timeline

To do at least one month before the program starts:

Planning Activity	Teacher Task	Teacher Due Date
Initial Program Planning	• Set program goals • Determine program start and end dates • Schedule key student tasks (see below)	
Determine Expo/Fair Plans (Optional)	• If students are competing in a local or regional fair, be sure to review registration requirements and deadlines • If you are planning your own fair or expo, start planning now	

During the program a week assumes 3-4 hours of work time / week

Week	Student Assignment	Assignments to Assess / Other Teacher Tasks	Student Due Date
1	Teaching the Scientific Method Lesson and/or Review the Steps of the Scientific Method	Teaching the Scientific Method Lesson: 3-5 Grade: Teaching the Scientific Method with Paper Rockets Lesson Plan 6-8 Grade: Paper Rockets to Learn the Scientific Method Lesson Plan (can be adapted for older students)	
2	1 - Ask a Question • Task #1A: What Makes a Good Research Question? • Task #1B: Find a Project Idea	1 - Ask a Question • Task #1B: Find a Project Idea (ensure chosen project ideas meet requirements)	
	1 - Ask a Question • Task #1C: Define Your Research Question	1 - Ask a Question	

Week	Student Assignment	Assignments to Assess / Other Teacher Tasks	Student Due Date
3	• Task #1D: Lab Notebook Setup • Task #1E: Self-Assessment	• Task #1 Assessment: Assess Tasks #1A-1D using the mastery rubric.	
4	2 - Background Research • Task #2A: Background Research Plan • Task #2B: Find Reliable Sources and Complete Background Research	2 - Background Research • Task #2A: Background Research Plan - Give feedback (or do peer review) on the background research plan (2A) prior to starting research (2B).	
5	2 - Background Research • Task #2C: Write a Research Paper (optional) • Task #2D: Self-Assessment	2 - Background Research • Task #2 Assessment: Assess Tasks #2B-2C using the mastery rubric.	
6	3 - Construct a Hypothesis • Task #3A: Define Your Variables • Task #3B: Write a Testable Hypothesis • Task #3C: Self-Assessment	3 - Construct a Hypothesis • Task #3 Assessment: Assess Tasks #3A-3B using the mastery rubric.	
7	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment • Task #4A: Prepare a Materials List & Experimental Procedure • Task #4B: Prepare for Data Collection • Task #4C: Prepare to Do Your Experiment	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment • Tasks #4A-C Feedback: Give feedback on these tasks (or do peer review) prior to students starting experimentation. • Optional: You may want to allow students to make changes and resubmit these tasks.	
8	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment • Optional: Revisions to Tasks #4A-C	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment • Task #4D: Review Check-Ins and provide support as needed	

Week	Student Assignment	Assignments to Assess / Other Teacher Tasks	Student Due Date
	Task #4D: Experimentation Check-In 1		
9	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment Task #4E: Experimentation Check-In 2 Task #4F: Self-Assessment	4 - Test Your Hypothesis by Doing an Experiment Task #4 Assessment: Assess Tasks #4A-4E using the mastery rubric.	
10	5 - Analyze Your Data & Draw a Conclusion Task #5A: Summarize Your Data in a Chart Task #5B: Graph Your Data	5 - Analyze Your Data & Draw a Conclusion Task #5A-B: Give feedback on these tasks (or do peer review) prior to writing conclusions.	
11	5 - Analyze Your Data & Draw a Conclusion Task #5C: Write a Conclusion Task #5D: Self-Assessment	5 - Analyze Your Data & Draw a Conclusion Task #5 Assessment: Assess Tasks #5A-D using the mastery rubric.	
12	6 - Communicate Your Results Task #6A: Write an Abstract Task #6B: Create a Display Board, Poster, or Presentation (draft)	6 - Communicate Your Results Task #6A-B: Give feedback on these tasks (or do peer review) prior to creating the final board, poster, or presentation.	
13	6 - Communicate Your Results Task #6B: Create a Display Board, Poster, or Presentation (final) Task #6C: Prepare to Present at Science Fair Task #6D: Finalize Your Lab Notebook	6 - Communicate Your Results Task #6C-D: Give feedback on these tasks (or do peer review) prior to the science fair or final presentation.	

Week	Student Assignment	Assignments to Assess / Other Teacher Tasks	Student Due Date
14	6 - Communicate Your Results • Task #6E: Final Report (optional) • Task #6F: Self-Assessment	6 - Communicate Your Results • Task #6 Assessment: Assess Tasks #6A-E using the mastery rubric.	

You can find this page online at: <https://www-stage.sciencebuddies.org/teacher-resources/science-project-guide/planning-resources/science-project-planning-timeline/teacher-timeline>

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