

SCIENCE BUDDIES *in Action*



Teacher

Whitney Skinner
Byron, California

Summary

Organizing a science fair for the first time can be daunting for a teacher, but Ms. Skinner and her students survived and thrived, with help from Science Buddies' online resources.

Overview

When Ms. Skinner started teaching eighth-grade physical science, she suddenly found herself responsible for organizing her classes' science fair. Her school holds their fair in fall, so Ms. Skinner needed a crash course in science fair planning—fast. Through a Google search of “science project ideas,” she found the Science Buddies website.

To figure out how to coordinate the science fair, Ms. Skinner turned to the Teacher's Guide to Science Projects, which provides everything from a timeline for the fair to worksheets that guide students through the process of conducting and presenting a science project. But figuring out how to set up the science fair was just the beginning. Then, Ms. Skinner had to tackle helping her students discover how to get started on their projects. To do this, she had all of the students use the Topic Selection Wizard.

“I really liked the questionnaire,” she says. “It was so helpful. Some of the students didn't even know where to start, and it helped them figure out projects they would like and gave them step-by-step instructions.”

Ms. Skinner observed that the Cooking and Food Science Interest Area was a particular hit with students.

“Students would say to me, ‘I don't want to learn science. I want to be a chef,’” she says. “I showed them the Project Ideas and said look, you can do a science project on it.”

