

You're receiving this email because you registered for the Science Buddies newsletter. Please [confirm](#) your continued interest in receiving email from us.

You may [unsubscribe](#) if you no longer wish to receive our emails.

SCIENCE BUDDIES

Project Ideas Roundup



July 2010

Creative Summer Greetings

Easy projects for sizzling social networking

Summer can be hit or miss for social connections, but staying in touch keeps the summer *blahs* away. A postcard in the mail from your vacation spot shares your view with friends. A text message...or 20...from the beach or the woods sends similar "I wish you were here" (or "I'm stuck here") greetings, sans the stamp. Once back home, summer is a great time to create greetings using photos, drawings, and secret jokes and sayings that are sure to make your friends smile--wherever they are.



With the [Make a Greeting Card Come to Life!](#) project, it's a breeze to design your own greeting card. You can spice things up with [moving characters](#) or use our [spinning pinwheel example](#) to create a fun "wheel of fortune" you and your friends can use to predict how the summer will end! (Difficulty: 3-5)

Your Story, Your Way

What happens next?

Put yourself in the director's chair! Storytelling Alice makes it easy to [make your own movies](#) using ready-made characters. You decide what the twists and turns of the story are and create the storyline *you've* always wanted to see on screen. You'll need plenty of popcorn when you gather your friends for movie night! (Difficulty: 5-8)

Creative [projects](#) like these are sponsored by Symantec Corporation.

Healthy Pets, Healthy People

A healthy lifestyle matters for all members of the family!



Do you reward your pet with extra treats? Do you sneak food from the table to the pet bowl? Does your pet turn its nose up at some foods, but eagerly gulp down fancier, gourmet selections?

Your four-legged family member might



Trash to Treasure Competition

PBS' Design Squad is offering kids at home a chance to get in on the action!

The 2010 Trash to Treasure Competition challenges kids to take everyday discarded or recycled materials and re-engineer them into functional products. Three grand-prize winners will win a trip to Boston to see their designs built, and will also appear on the Design Squad TV show and website. 25 finalists will also be featured on the series website. Enter at

not have a lasagna obsession like Garfield, but many pets have developed a rich palate and a lazy lifestyle. The combination might be cute in the comics, but with almost half of the pets in the U.S. overweight and at increased risk for health conditions ranging from diabetes to heart disease, it might be time to make dietary changes. In the [Is That Cat Fat?](#) science project, find out how pets in your neighborhood weigh in. (Difficulty: 2)

Fido Isn't the Only One

Making healthy eating a priority is important for the whole family. Learn more about diabetes and the impact of sugars on the bloodstream in the [How Sweet It Is! Measuring Glucose in Your Food](#) project. Even healthy fruits contain sugars, but not all fruits contain the same concentration of glucose. A bit of kitchen chemistry reveals the varying levels of glucose within common fruits, juices, and foods. (Difficulty: 6)

The Abbott Fund, sponsor of the Science Buddies [Parent Resources](#) and the [Zoology](#) interest area, is committed to increasing family awareness of diabetes in pets and people.

Family Kitchen Science



Rock candy comes in a variety of colors and flavors, but at the heart of this classic-on-a-stick is a *saturated* sugar-water solution and a scientific reaction called *nucleation*. With a few empty jars and a bit of string, you can turn your kitchen into a family candy-making zone.

Our [When Science is Sweet: Growing Rock Candy Crystals](#) project gives you the recipe and the science behind the process. For an added twist, [Maple Syrup: For Pancakes, Waffles, and...Crystal Candy?](#) guides you through the process of heating maple syrup and observing the crystallization that occurs as the solution cools. (Difficulty: 2-5)

If you're interested in crystal formation,

pbs.org/designsquad until September 5, 2010.

By Air, By Water, and By Hover?

Kicking Paper Airplane-Style Fun into High Gear

Take advantage of summer breeze and time at the park and explore some [clever plane and boat construction](#).

Paper airplanes are classic for introducing aerodynamics, but you can *really* get into motion with our cool glider and boat projects--or give a balloon-powered hovercraft a whirl!



Perfect for solo exploration or collaborative family building, there's plenty of opportunity for a race here and there as you put your models to the test and explore both aerodynamics and hydrodynamics!

The [Aerodynamics & Hydrodynamics](#) interest area is sponsored by Northrop Grumman.

Happy Earthworm = Happy Earth

Turn over stones and dig into a bit of dirt for zoology science!

Earthworms--you find them in your garden, your yard, and on the sidewalk after a good rain. But these squiggly, squishy creatures are more than just bait for your next fishing trip. Earthworms actually help put food on your table *and* play an important role in the environment. Check out these projects to learn how a happy earthworm can improve *your* everyday life.

- [Squirmy Wormy: Which Soil Type Do Earthworms Like Best?](#): As earthworms eat the soil, they create tunnels that keep the soil open and full of paths, allowing water and air to reach the roots of plants. Without earthworms, it would be very hard to grow all the plants that give us oxygen and food. In this science project, you will explore in which type of soil earthworms like to do their important work. (Difficulty: 1-2)

but want to skip the sugar, you can explore crystalline structures in [Crazy Crystal Creations: How to Grow the Best and the Largest Crystals](#). (Difficulty: 3-4)



Make a Tie-Dye Shirt That Really Stands Out from the Rest!



Tie-dye is great backyard family fun!

Learn [How to Make the Boldest, Brightest Tie-Dye!](#) to wear this summer or for a sizzling back-to-school look. Gather your rubber bands, but don't run out and buy a shirt to dye just yet! To really create eye-catching and vibrant tie-dye, you need to think about the fabric you're using. Which fiber types react most strongly with the dye? Put your best fashion foot forward and try this project to find out! (Difficulty: 5)

"Sunny" Chemistry

For more outdoor summer fun that combines chemistry and art, check our information on making [sun prints!](#) (Difficulty: 3-5)

"Sweet" Birds

Do you have hummingbirds in your backyard? If so, you are familiar with their flashes of color as they *jizz* in and out of garden flowers and perform high-flying aerobatic maneuvers. Given that these small birds eat about two-thirds of their body weight every day, maintaining a hummingbird feeder takes commitment--and a lot of sugar! But if you keep the feeder full, you and your family might be rewarded with the chance to watch them throughout the summer months.



Whether you want to start a feeder or you already keep a feeder, a bit of experimentation can help you determine the best mixture to use and give you new insight into bird behavior, adaptation,

- [Feeding Earthworms: Do Different Diets Affect Them and the Soil They Enrich?](#): Earthworms play a key role in the soil's food web. Along with bacteria, fungi, other kinds of worms, and insects, earthworms eat their way through the soil, excreting it as fertilizer for the earth. In this project, you'll feed earthworms different types of food--from vegetables to egg shells to grass clippings--and examine how the food influences their reproduction and the quality of soil they produce. (Difficulty: 5-6)

Soccer Ball Science



For a recap of the controversy surrounding the World Cup soccer ball, and links to related sports science projects, check out the [Science Buddies Blog entry](#) on the 2010 Adidas Jabulani ball.

Teacher Science Videos

Winning teacher entries in the [Engineering.com video competition](#) will be showcased on the [USA Science and Engineering Festival](#) website and on Engineering.com. Film a video lesson that explains a core science principle (from the official competition list) for a chance to win. Entry deadline: October 21, 2010.

Student Video Contest

The deadline for students entering the Kavli Foundation "Why is Science Cool?" video contest has been extended to August 31, 2010. For more information, visit: <http://tinyurl.com/35hulzq>.

OFFICIAL PARTNER



and survival instincts. Believe it or not, the color of the mixture matters! In [How Sweet It Is!](#), you'll explore which is more important in attracting a hummingbird: the color of the food or the amount of sugar in the syrupy solution. (Difficulty: 5-7)

A Seed Supper for Four

For other neighborhood birds, you'll need seeds, not sugar, to draw them into your backyard. But different birds prefer different types of seeds--from varieties of sunflower seed to millet, corn, and thistle. In the [What Seeds Do Birds Prefer to Eat?](#) project, you and your family can build a special feeder that offers four different types of seeds, inviting a variety of birds to picnic within your view!

As you observe which types of birds visit, which seeds they prefer, and how fast different types of seeds are eaten, you'll learn a lot about your local birdlife! (Difficulty: 5)

How Do Flowers Weather the Wilt?



As you sip your cold lemonade on a really hot day this summer, think about how flowers stay so beautiful, especially on days when there's no rain. Why don't they wilt (like you think *you* might!) after a whole day in the sun without a drink? In the [Suck It Up: Capillary Action of Water in Plants](#) science project, you'll use two simple materials--food dye and carnations--to understand how water travels through and is stored in flowers. (Difficulty: 1)

Science on the Big Screen



Tracking the stories of three high school seniors who have their sights set on the Intel Science Talent Search, WhizKids offers an inside look at the world of advanced science competitions. The documentary, directed by Tom Shepard, showcases the perseverance of these students, and the ways in which location, economy, and big business intervene in their quest for scientific truth--and a chance at Intel's top prize.

Hailed as "an unabashed celebration of geekitude, idealism, and the will to win," by *The New York Times*, WhizKids is an inspiring and emotional real-world look at the spirit and dedication that drives the scientists of tomorrow. For information on screenings, visit whizkidsmovie.com.

Difficulty Level

All Science Buddies projects are ranked in terms of "Difficulty Level." **This ranking does not correlate directly with grade level.** For more information, see our [Understanding Project "Difficulty" chart](#).

Looking for a Perfect Project for You?



Our [Topic Selection Wizard](#) can help guide you to a science project that fits your areas of interest *and* meets science fair requirements. Give it a try today!

Keep in Touch



We post regular updates and announcements on the [Science Buddies at Facebook](#) page. Adding us to your "like" list at Facebook is an easy way to find out about new projects, giveaways, and other Science Buddies news. No Facebook? You can also follow us at [Twitter](#) or on our [blog](#).

Tell Others About Science Buddies

If you know a friend, colleague, or family member who you think would enjoy Science Buddies and the Science Buddies newsletters, please forward a copy of this month's Project Ideas Roundup with the "Forward email" link below. (*If you received a copy of the newsletter from a*

friend and would like to sign up, please visit: <http://tinyurl.com/ydgjbsq>.)

Sponsor the Science Buddies Newsletter

Science Buddies provides an ideal platform for corporations that are interested in taking direct action to improve science education. If your company is interested in having prominent sponsor recognition in our monthly newsletter, please let us know by emailing courtney@sciencebuddies.org.

Copyright © 2010 Science Buddies. All rights reserved.
www.sciencebuddies.org

[Forward email](#)

SafeUnsubscribe®

This email was sent to scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org by scibuddy@sciencebuddies.org.
[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Science Buddies | PO Box 5038 | Carmel | CA | 93921