



## SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT CATEGORIES

- ✓ **Astronomy:** The study of stars, planets, and other objects in the universe.
  
- ✓ **Biology:** The study of living things
  - **Anatomy:** The study of the structure of plants and animals.
  - **Behaviorism:** The study of actions that alter the relationship between an organism, such as a plant or an animal, and its environment.
  - **Botany:** The study of plants and plant life, including their structure and growth.
  - **Ecology:** The study of the relationships of living things to other living things and to their environment.
  - **Genetics:** The study of the methods of transmission of qualities from parents to their offspring; the principles of heredity in living things.
  - **Microbiology:** The study of microscopic organisms, such as, fungi, bacteria, and protista.
  - **Physiology:** The study of life processes, such as respiration, circulation, the nervous system, metabolism, and reproduction.
  - **Zoology:** The study of animals, including their structure and growth.
  
- ✓ **Earth science:** The study of the earth.
  - **Geology:** The study of the earth, including the composition of its layers, its crust, and its history. Subtopics may include the following:
    - *Fossils:* Remnants or traces of prehistoric life-forms preserved in the earth's crust.
    - *Mineralogy:* The study of the composition and formation of minerals.
    - *Rocks:* Solids made up of one or more minerals.
    - *Seismology:* The study of earthquakes.
    - *Volcanology:* The study of volcanoes.
  - **Meteorology:** The study of weather, climate, and the earth's atmosphere.
  - **Oceanography:** The study of the oceans and marine organisms.
  - **Paleontology:** The study of prehistoric life-forms.

This list is from Janice VanCleave's book, *Guide to the Best Science Fair Projects*, New York, Wiley, 1997. The Guide is available on line at: [SchooDoodle.com](http://SchooDoodle.com)



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- ✓ **Engineering:** The application of scientific knowledge for practical purposes.
- ✓ **Physical Science:** The study of matter and energy.
  - **Chemistry:** the study of the materials that substances are made of and how they change and combine.
  - **Physics:** The study of forms of energy and the laws of motion. Subtopics include studies in the following areas:
    - *Electricity:* the form of energy associated with the presence and movement of electric charges.
    - *Energy:* The capacity to do work.
    - *Gravity:* The force that pulls celestial bodies, such as planets and moons, toward each other; the force that pulls things on or near a celestial body toward its center.
    - *Machines:* Devices that make work easier.
    - *Magnetism:* The force of attraction or repulsion between magnetic poles, and the attraction that magnets have for magnetic materials.
- ✓ **Mathematics:** The use of numbers and symbols to study amounts and forms.
  - **Geometry:** the branch of mathematics that deals with points, lines, planes, and their relationships to each other.

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