

Name:

Grade:

## WHAT AM I GOING TO DO FOR A SCIENCE PROJECT?

1. What sorts of things are you interested in? Some kids are interested in things that fly, dinosaurs, electricity, and more. Make a list of things you think are interesting.

a.

b.

c.

d.

e.

f.

g.

2. Pick one thing from your list above and write down what you find interesting about it. Then write down what it is about this thing you are curious about or have questions about. Use the space below.

What I find interesting about \_\_\_\_\_ is:

Questions I have about \_\_\_\_\_ are:

a.

b.

c.

d.

3. Go to the Bennett library for books or the Bennett Internet access for web sites that have information about your interest. You can also go with your family to the King County Library and do the same thing. The librarians are always willing to help out! Write down the information sources you found (title and author of books, web site addresses) below.

a. <http://www.bennettelementary.org>

b.

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c.

d.

e.

4. Now you are ready to start developing your project! **Step 1** in a science project is to develop a hypothesis. A hypothesis is like a prediction of what you think is going to happen or an idea statement. For example, if you are interested in what slugs eat, you might come up with the idea statement like "I think slugs eat any plants that grow close to where they live." Sometimes, coming up with an idea statement is hard, *so don't get to hung up on it!* The important thing for Bennett young scientists is to follow your interests, do experiments or observations, record what you observed, and come up with a reasonable explanation about what you saw or did. If you are stuck on Step 1, skip to Step 2.

**Step 1, Hypothesis or Idea Statement:**

5. **Step 2** in a science project is to develop an experiment to test your hypothesis or idea statement. If you want to test the idea that slugs will eat any plant that grows close to them, you can design an experiment to provide slugs choices of plants (leaves, stems, flowers, fruit) to eat. You need to think carefully about how you would do this and how you can measure the results. While your at it, think of other experiments you could do at the same time to introduce other variables (changes) to further test your ideas and learn more. For example, will slugs travel further (and how much further) to eat a favorite food? Will slugs eat their favorite food if it has a different color or smell added? This can be really fun!

**Step 2, Experiments To Do:**

6. You are ready for your science project! **Step 3** is to do your experiments and record your results. Be sure to figure out how you can measure your results (time, length, number, weight, etc.). Sometimes photographs or drawings are a good way to record your results. **Step 4** is to figure out what you learned. Another way to say this is to come up with your conclusions. **Remember:** it is OK if your hypothesis was incorrect or if your experiment "did not work". This happens all the time to professional scientists and they learn from it! **Step 5** is to write down all of your steps and make your display board for Young Scientist Week!

**SCIENCE IS FUN — HAVE A GREAT TIME!**