

BACKGROUND RESEARCH PLAN WORKSHEET

1. What is the question you are trying to answer with an experiment?

Name: _____

Partner Name: _____

2. List the keywords/phrases from your question and the topic in general.

| | | |
|-------|-------|-------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ |

3. Use your keywords to build some questions to guide your background research. Develop at least two or three from each "question word." Don't worry about whether you already know the answer to the question – you'll find the answers when you do your background research.

| Question Word | Possible Questions | Substitute your keywords for the blanks in the previous column. Write down the relevant questions and use them to guide your background research. |
|---------------|---|---|
| WHY | Why does ___ happen? Why does ___ ___? Why _____? | |

| Question Word | Possible Questions | Substitute your keywords for the blanks in the previous column. Write down the relevant questions and use them to guide your background research. |
|---------------|--|---|
| How | How does ___ happen? How does ___ work? How does ___ detect ___? How does one measure ___? How do we use ___? How _____? | |
| Who | Who needs ___? Who discovered ___? Who invented ___? Who _____? | |
| What | What causes ___ to increase/decrease? What is ___ made of? What are the characteristics of ___? What is the relationship between ___ and ___? What do we use ___ for? What _____? | |
| When | When does ___ cause ___? When was ___ discovered? When _____? | |
| Where | Where does ___ occur? Where does ___ get used? Where _____? | |

This worksheet was adapted from the Science Buddies Website:

http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_background_research_plan.shtml#makingabackgroundresearchplan