

## BACKGROUND RESEARCH PLAN WORKSHEET

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

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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.
<b>How</b>	How does ____ happen? How does ____ work? How does ____ detect ____? How does one measure ____? How do we use ____? How _____?	
<b>Who</b>	Who needs ____? Who discovered ____? Who invented ____? Who _____?	
<b>What</b>	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 _____?	
<b>When</b>	When does ____ cause ____? When was ____ discovered? When _____?	
<b>Where</b>	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](http://www.sciencebuddies.org/science-fair-projects/project_background_research_plan.shtml#makingabackgroundresearchplan)