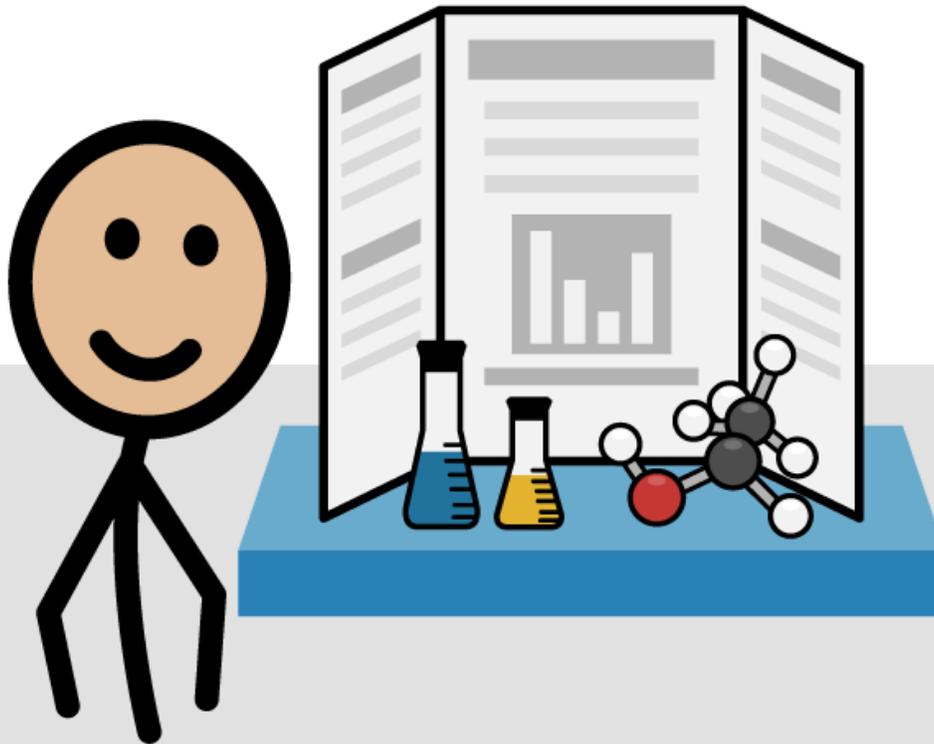


# Elementary Science Fair





### Unit Overview

#### Elementary Science Fair

This unit explores scientific inquiry, placing a special emphasis on using the five senses. Students learn about the five senses and how they can be used to observe and learn about the natural environment. They also learn about scientists, what they do and how they use the scientific method. Throughout the unit, students participate in a variety of scientific investigations. They also complete a project for a class science fair.

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## Instructional Target

### Standards for Scientific Inquiry

- Observe and ask questions about the natural environment.
- Make simple observations and participate in simple investigations.
- Use senses to learn about the natural environment.
- Use simple tools to gather data.
- Communicate with others about observations and investigations.



## Differentiated Tasks

### Level 3 Students will...

- Follow steps of a scientific process related to grades K-2 science topics.

### Level 2 Students will...

- Follow steps of a scientific process related to grades K-2 science topics, with support.

### Level 1 Students will...

- Actively participate in a scientific process related to grades K-2 science topics.



## Standards Connection

### The Lemon Test



Teaching students how to use their five senses is an important first step in developing their scientific inquiry skills. In the first book of the unit, students read about Alana who uses her five senses to learn about a lemon. As you work with this book, encourage students to use their five senses to explore their natural environment. In Lesson 2, students will build comprehension of the story and have the opportunity to use their five senses to explore a lemon. In Lesson 30, students write about how they use their senses and their favorite science experiments. Throughout the unit, continue to discuss ways to use the five senses to observe and learn about the natural environment as part of the scientific process.

### Bobby's Science Fair Project



This unit's Easy Read Book extends the concept of the scientific process. Students read about Bobby and his science fair project about seeds. After reading this book with students, encourage students to discuss the different steps Bobby followed to complete his science fair project. In Lesson 26, students are encouraged to use steps from the scientific process to make a guess or hypothesis as they complete a recipe. In Lesson 27, students use a data sheet and their senses to follow the scientific process as they compare pumpkins.

### Let's Have a Science Fair



A science fair is a fun way to have students apply their learning from this unit. In Lesson 28, students are introduced to a simplified five-step version of the scientific method. Students can use these steps to complete a project for a class science fair. The lesson also includes a variety of science experiments to choose from. Throughout this unit, work with students to plan a class science fair. Choose a date, make plans for how and when students will work on their projects and talk with students about ways they might present their projects. Invite parents or other classes to come see the students' projects.

The **n2y Library** has several books that may build and extend understanding of the unit concepts:



- **Let's Taste It** (Levels aa, A, B) looks at the sense of taste.
- **Growing a Flower Garden** (Levels aa, B, C) introduces planting and growing flowers.
- **Simon Goes to a Science Fair** (Level E) describes a science fair and what Simon sees there.
- **Simon's Five Senses** (Level E and H/I) follows Simon as he learns about and uses his five senses.
- **Plants Can Grow** (Level H/I) presents the parts of a plant, including the function of each part.
- **What Is a Magnet?** (Level F/G) introduces how magnets work and what they are attracted to.