PROJECT DUE DATES: • **#1-7:** May 13th • **#8-13:** May 20th • **#14-20:** May 27th

S P R I N G

Guidelines for "The Big Question" Project

For our final big project, we are making our own classroom **"Book of Big Questions."** Your job will be to write one (or two) pages of our book by picking one "Big Question" and doing research to make discoveries about your question.

Step 1: Decide on a "Big Question." *Your question is very important. It should be something that interests you and sparks your curiosity. The best questions start with "How" or "Why." (If you're stuck, look at the back of this page for ideas.)*

Step 2: Research, research, research! *Look for discoveries to your big question in more than one place. You can use books... magazine articles... internet websites... newspapers... any nonfiction resources.* ***You need to get your information from at least two different places.***

Step 3: Write a rough draft of your discoveries! *Use a scrap piece of paper to organize your thoughts and ideas and write a first draft of your discoveries.* ***Your page of discoveries needs to be at least 100 words.***

Step 4: Write a final draft on the yellow "Big Question" Project sheet. *You are creating a page for our classroom book. You need to use your best spelling, capitalization, and punctuation. You need to use your neatest handwriting!*

Step 5: Write the names of your sources (books, magazines, websites...) *Remember, you need to use at least two different sources.*

- **For books:** Write the title and author of the book.
  (**Example:** Fossils of the World by Chris Pellant)
- **For magazines:** Write the name of the magazine and the title of the article.
  (**Example:** National Geographic Kids, "Incredible Fossils!")
- **For websites:** Write the **entire website address** (so we can show it on the SmartBoard).
  (**Example:** www.beekman.weebly.com/websites.html)

DO

- ✔ **Do** use a question that starts with "How" or "Why" (These need juicy answers!)
- ✔ **Do** look for answers in more than one place.
- ✔ **Do** check out the list of sample questions. Pick one or make up your own big question.
- ✔ **Do** look at Mr. Beekman's sample page, "How Are Fossils Made?"
- ✔ **Do** use a search engine such a Google or Yahoo to help you. (Helpful hint: Add the words "for kids" to your search. You'll find website that are easier to understand!

DON'T

- ✔ **Don't** use words you don't understand!
- ✔ **Don't** just copy words from books and websites. **COPYING is STEALING!** Tell your discoveries in your own words.
- ✔ **Don't** be sloppy!
- ✔ **Don't** forget to write a rough draft
- ✔ **Don't** be worried if you can't find an answer. Some of the best questions do not yet have a final answer. But you can still write about everything you discovered about your question.

Samples of Big Questions

You can pick out one of these questions or make up a question of your own.

The best **"Big Questions"** usually start with "How" or "Why," but you can start your question in a different way as long as it needs a big, juicy answer!

Why is the sky blue?

How come penguins can't fly?

Why does the Earth spin?

How do magnets work?

How are rainbows made?

Why are most people right-handed but some people are left-handed?

Where does all that sand in the desert come from?

Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?

How do airplanes stay in the air?

Why did the Titanic sink?

How come you can hear people on the telephone from thousands of miles away?

Why is the ocean salty?

How does a submarine work?

Why do men grow beards but women don't?

Why do donuts have holes?

Why do people have belly buttons?

What makes a volcano erupt?

Why do trees have bark?

Why do cats purr?

How did the Americans defeat the British in the Revolutionary War?

Why do people have fingerprints?

Is there life on places other than Earth?

Why are teardrops salty?

Why do people sneeze?

Why do roosters crow at sunrise?

Why does hair turn gray as people get older?

Why doesn't it hurt when I get a haircut?

How do insects walk on the ceiling without falling off?

Why is grass green?

What makes people dream?

How does an elevator work?

Why do leaves change color in fall?

Why do some people go bald?

How do birds fly?

Why do beavers build dams?

Why do camels have humps?

How do fireflies light up?

How are caves formed?

How come the sun never burns itself out?

HELPFUL HINT: Are you stuck? **Try doing your project backward!** Read about any topic of your choice. After you learn some juicy information, use the information you discovered to make up a juicy "Big Question!"

The Big Question Project

written by _____

MY BIG QUESTION:

MY DISCOVERIES:

continue on the other side

MY SOURCES:

MY DISCOVERIES:

ROUGH DRAFT

written by _____

MY BIG QUESTION:

MY DISCOVERIES:

continue on the other side

MY SOURCES:

MY DISCOVERIES:

The Big Question Project

written by Mr. Beekman

MY BIG QUESTION:

How are fossils made?

MY DISCOVERIES:

There are several ways that fossils can be formed. Most fossils are the left over remains of plants or animals that lived long ago. Fossils look similar to how the plant or animal looked when it was alive, except now it is turned to stone. The substance that shells or bones were made of is replaced by rocky materials such as quartz or pyrite. This is called petrification, which means turning to stone.

Most creatures do not turn into fossils. They quickly rot and decay after they die. But some do not decay if they get covered in a layer of sediment right away before they can start decaying. Sediment is tiny pieces of rock, mud, and sand. →

MY SOURCES:

Fossils of the World by Chris Pallant

www.fossilsforkids.com/Page2.html

MY DISCOVERIES:

The sediment may get squished together under the ground or under the sea and turn to rock, with the creature trapped inside. It can take from 10,000 to 500,000,000 years for a fossil to be made.

Not all fossils are turned to stone. Another type of fossil can be made when an insect gets trapped in the sticky liquid of a pine tree, and the liquid gets buried under the ground. Years later the tree will die and rot away, and the insect and sticky liquid may become fossilized, with the insect still trapped inside the sticky liquid that has now turned to stone.