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## Timeline for your Big Question Project:

**Before Spring Break...** (We will do this step in school)

**Due by March 28:**

- Tell Mr. Beekman the “Big Question” you are researching.
- Start finding some resources (books and websites) about your topic
- Turn in Research Note #1

## After Spring Break...

(These jobs will be part of your weekly homework packets)

**Due by April 12:** • Turn in Research Notes #2, #3, and #4

**Due by April 19:** • Turn in Research Notes #5, #6, and #7

**Due by April 26:** • Turn in Research Notes #8, #9, and #10

**Due by May 3:** • Turn in Research Notes #11, #12, and #13

**Due by May 10:** • Turn in your Answer to your Big Question.

Use your notes and research to write a detailed ANSWER to your Big Question. Your answer will need to be at least 100 words (and probably a LOT MORE)!

*You will get a lot more details about your Rough Draft Answer after you have completed your note collecting. Your Rough Draft Answer can be hand-written or typed on a Google Doc. You will be using your Rough Draft Answer to help you start building your website in school after May 10th.*



# Samples of Big Questions

You can pick out one of these questions or make up any 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 are rainbows made?
- Why are most people right-handed but some people are left-handed? How do airplanes stay in the air? Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?
- Why are some people born as twins? Where does all the sand in the desert come from? How come you can hear people on the telephone from thousands of miles away?
- Why is the ocean salty? Why did the Titanic sink? 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?
- How do magnets work? Why do cats purr? How did the Americans defeat the British in the Revolutionary War?
- What makes a volcano erupt? Why do trees have bark? Why do people have fingerprints? Why do people sneeze?
- Is there life on places other than Earth? Why are teardrops salty? Why doesn't it hurt when I get a haircut?
- Why do roosters crow at sunrise? Why does hair turn gray as people get older? What makes people dream?
- How do insects walk on the ceiling without falling off? Why is grass green? Why do leaves change color in fall? How does an elevator work?
- Why do some people go bald? Why do leaves change color in fall? How does an elevator work?
- Why do camels have humps? How do birds fly? Why do beavers build dams?
- 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!"













## WEBSITE SOURCES:

Here are the website addresses for some webpages where I found information to help me answer my question:

**1** Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you  
(and anybody else) find the exact page again.

http://www. \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you  
(and anybody else) find the exact page again.

http://www. \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you  
(and anybody else) find the exact page again.

http://www. \_\_\_\_\_

**4** Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you  
(and anybody else) find the exact page again.

http://www. \_\_\_\_\_

**5** Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you  
(and anybody else) find the exact page again.

http://www. \_\_\_\_\_

## BOOK SOURCES:

Here are some books I found to help me answer my question:

**1** Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**2** Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: \_\_\_\_\_

**3** Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Author: \_\_\_\_\_

# SAMPLES

Big Question Project  
Rough Drafts

*Please visit*  
[www.beekman.weebly.com](http://www.beekman.weebly.com)

*to see many, many more samples of  
Big Question Projects  
written by 4th grade students  
from Mr. Beekman's class.*

# The Big Question Project

**SAMPLE PROJECT**

written by Mr. Beekman

**MY BIG QUESTION:**

How are fossils made?

**MY DISCOVERIES:**

## Introduction

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.

## Trapped Inside Rock

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. →

Flip over to the other side to finish writing your answer and make a list of your SOURCES!



## 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.

### A Sticky Situation

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.

## WEBSITE SOURCES:

Here are the website addresses for some webpages where I found information to help me answer my question:

1 Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.

<http://www.fossilsforkids.com>

2 Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.

<http://www.science.lovetoknow.com/understanding-science/explaining-fossils-kids>

3 Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.

<http://www.dkfindout.com/us/dinosaurs-and-prehistoric-life/fossils/>

4 Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.

<http://www.>

5 Website Page Address:

Writing the **WHOLE** address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.

<http://www.>

## BOOK SOURCES:

Here are some books I found to help me answer my question:

1 Title: *Fossils of the World*

Author: *Chris Pallant*

2 Title: *Curious About Fossils*

Author: *Kate Waters*

3 Title: *Fossil*

Author: *Paul Taylor*