## 

### **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 ANSWERto 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.



Get ready to build your own "Big Question" Website... To check out other websites made by Mr. Beekman's 4th graders, go to:

beekman.weebly.com

**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 often 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 guestion in more than one place. Read information! Become an expert! You can use books... magazine articles... internet websites... online articles... any nonfiction resources. You will need to get your information from at least three or more different places.

**Step 3:** Collect research notes. You will need to collect at least 13 or more notecards about your Big Question. Note #1 will be due March 28th. After that, three notecards will be due in your homework packets on April 12th, April 19th, April 26<sup>th</sup>, and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. All notes will be returned to you to help you write your final project.

**Step 4:** Write 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 or more!** Your answer may be handwritten or typed in a Google Doc. Your rough draft ANSWER is due by May 10th.

Step 5: Write the names of your sources (books, magazines, websites...) Remember, you will need at least three different sources. You will use your sources in class to collect pictures, videos, and links to add to your website.

**Step 6:** In class you will build your "BIG QUESTION" Website! Using Google Sites, you will build your own website. Your website will include the text you write, plus pictures, videos, and links to other websites. Your website will have its own web address, plus it will also be published on beekman.weebly.com.

#### ✓ Do use a question that starts with "How" Don't use words you don't understand! or "Why" (These need juicy answers!) Don't just copy words from books and **Do** look for answers in more than one place. websites. COPYING is STEALING! Tell Do check out the list of sample questions. your discoveries in your own words. Pick one or make up your own big question. **V** Don't forget to collect three or more notes ✓ Do look at Mr. Beekman's sample page, each week. "How Are Fossils Made?" **Don't** be worried if you can't find an **V** Do use a search engine such a Google or answer. Some of the best questions do not Yahoo to help you. (Helpful hint: Add the yet have a final answer. But you can still words "for kids" to your search. You'll find write about everything you discovered websites that are easier to understand! about your guestion. Your "ANSWER" to your Big Question is due by Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>

Check out websites made by kids at www.beekman.weebly.com Samples of You can pick out one of these questions or make up any question of your own. **Big Questions** The best "Big Questions" usually start with "How" or "Why," but you can start How come penguins Why is the sky blue? your question in a different way as long can't fly? as it needs a big, juicy answer! Why does Why are most people the Earth spin? right-handed but some How are rainbows made? people are left-handed? How do airplanes stay in the air? Why did the dinosaurs go extinct? Where does all the sand in the desert come from? How come you can hear Why are some people on the telephone from people born as twins? thousands of miles away? Why is the ocean salty? Why did the Titanic sink? Why do people Why do men grow beards How does a Why do donuts have belly submarine work? but women don't? have holes? buttons? How do magnets work? Why do cats purr? How did the Americans Why do trees defeat the British in What makes a the Revolutionary War? have bark? Why do people have volcano erupt? Why do people sneeze? fingerprints? 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 Why does hair turn gray crow at sunrise? as people get older? What makes people dream? How do insects walk Why is grass green? How does an on the ceiling elevator work? without falling off? Why do leaves change color in fall? Why do some people go bald? Why do beavers build dams? How do birds fly? How come the Why do camels How do fireflies sun never burns How are caves formed? have humps? light up? 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!"



Rough Draft

written by \_\_\_\_\_ MY BIG QUESTION:-

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Website Page Address:	Writing the <b>WHOLE</b> address will help you
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Author:	

# SAMPLES

# Big Question Project Rough Drafts

## Please visit www.beekman.weebly.com

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

## 

written by Mr. Beekman

- MY BIG QUESTION :-

How are fossils made?

PROJECT

## 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 not away, and the insect and sticky liquid may become fassilized, with the insect still trapped inside the sticky liquid that has now turned to stone.

Here are the website addresses for some webpages where I		
found information to help	me answer my question:	
<b>1</b> Website Page Address:	Writing the <b>WHOLE</b> address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.	
http://www.fossilsforkids	. com	
<b>2</b> Website Page Address:	Writing the <b>WHOLE</b> address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.	
http://www.science.lovetok	now.com/understanding-science/	
explaining-fossils-kids	~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~	
B Website Page Address:	Writing the <b>WHOLE</b> address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.	
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fossils/	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
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<b>G</b> Website Page Address:	Writing the <b>WHOLE</b> address will help you (and anybody else) find the exact page again.	
http://www		
•	K SOURCES:	
Title: Fossils of the	und to help me answer my question:	
Author: Chris Pallant		
2 Title: Curious About		
<b>1</b>		

Author: Kate Waters 3 Title: Fossil

Author: Paul Taylor