

**PROJECT DUE DATES:** • #1-11: Thursday, May 26<sup>th</sup>  
• #12-22: Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>

# 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 more than 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](http://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

Why is the sky blue?

Why does the Earth spin?

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

How do airplanes stay in the air?

Why is the ocean salty?

How does a submarine work?

What makes a volcano erupt?

Is there life on places other than Earth?

Why do roosters crow at sunrise?

How do insects walk on the ceiling without falling off?

Why do some people go bald?

Why do camels have humps?

How do fireflies light up?

How do birds fly?

How are caves formed?

How come penguins can't fly?

How do magnets work?

Where does all that sand in the desert come from?

Why did the Titanic sink?

Why do men grow beards but women don't?

Why do trees have bark?

Why do people have fingerprints?

Why are teardrops salty?

Why does hair turn gray as people get older?

Why is grass green?

Why do leaves change color in fall?

Why do beavers build dams?

How come the sun never burns itself out?

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!

How are rainbows made?

Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?

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

Why do donuts have holes?

Why do people have belly buttons?

Why do cats purr?

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

Why do people sneeze?

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

What makes people dream?

How does an elevator work?

**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!"











## 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.