The Big Question Project

For our final project, we are making our own Google "Question & Answer" Website. Your job will be to write one (or two) pages of text to use on your website by picking one "Big Question" and doing research to make discoveries about the answer.

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 question in more than one place. Read information! Become an expert! You can use books... magazine articles... internet websites... newspapers... any nonfiction resources.* ***You 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 12 or more notecards about your Big Question.* ***3 notecards will be due in your homework packets on April 12th, April 17th, May 3rd, and May 10th****. All notes will be returned to you to help you write your final project.*

Step 4: Write your answer to your "Big Question" on the gold sheet. *Use your notes and research to write a detailed answer to your Big Question.* ***Your answer needs to be at least 100 words or more!*** *You will use your answer to help you make your website in school.*

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

Step 6: In class we will build our Giant "Question & Answer" Website! *Using Google Sites, each student will build his or her own website page. Your website will include the text you write, plus pictures, videos, and links to other websites. We will connect together all of our website pages on one* **Giant "Question & Answer" Website.**

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 websites 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** forget to collect three or more notes each week.
- ✔ **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.

PROJECT DUE DATE: FRIDAY, MAY 17th

Check out websites made by kids at www.beekman.weebly.com

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

Why does the Earth spin?

How are rainbows made?

How do airplanes stay in the air?

Why did the dinosaurs go extinct?

Where does all the sand in the desert come from?

Why are some people born as twins?

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?

What makes a volcano erupt?

Why do trees have bark?

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

Is there life on places other than Earth?

Why do people have fingerprints?

Why do people sneeze?

Why are teardrops salty?

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?

Why do leaves change color in fall?

How does an elevator work?

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

SAMPLE 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. 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

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

MY DISCOVERIES:

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.

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. _____

_____

BOOK SOURCES:

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

1 Title: _____

Author: _____

2 Title: _____

Author: _____

The Big Question Project

written by _____

MY BIG QUESTION:

MY DISCOVERIES:

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

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