

## Elementary School Science Fair Project Ideas

Does the brand of dish soap affect the size of bubbles it produces?

What color light helps plants grow the tallest?

Does the temperature of an onion affect the odor that makes you cry?

What ratio of vinegar to [baking soda](#) produces the biggest [chemical](#) eruption?

What type of plastic wrap best prevents evaporation?

What plastic wrap best prevents rusting?

Are night insects attracted to lamps because of heat, color, or light?

Does the flavor of Jello-O affect the time it takes to become a solid?

Does varying amounts of detergent in water affect plant growth?

Can temperature affect the rate Epsom salts dissolves?

Does magnetism affect the growth of plants?

Does the shape of an ice cube affect how quickly it melts?

How do differences in surfaces affect the adhesion of tape?

If you shake up different kinds or brands of soft drinks (e.g., carbonated), will they all spew the same amount?

Are all potato chips equally greasy (you can crush them to get uniform samples and look at the diameter of a grease spot on brown paper)? Is greasiness different if different oils are used (e.g., peanut versus soybean)?

Can you use a household water filter to remove flavor or color from other liquids?

Do different fruits have different percentages of water?

Does the percent fat affect the amount of ground beef, chuck, and round after they have been cooked?

Do different brands of batteries (same size, new) last equally long?

Do all [dishwashing detergents](#) produce the same amount of bubbles? Clean the same number of dishes?

How permanent are permanent markers? What solvents (e.g., water, alcohol, vinegar, detergent solution) will remove the ink? Do different brands/types of markers produce the same results?

Is [laundry detergent](#) as effective if you use less than the recommended amount? More?

Do all hairsprays hold equally well? Equally long?

Make [ice cubes](#) starting with different temperatures of water. Does [the starting temperature](#) of water affect how long it takes to freeze?

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**Does the temperature of a soda affect how much it sprays when shaken?**

How does the rate of evaporation of the crystal-growing medium affect the final size of the crystals? You can change the rate of evaporation by sealing the container (no evaporation at all if there is no air space) or by blowing a fan over the liquid or enclosing the jar of medium with a desiccant. Different places and seasons will have different humidities. The crystals grown in a desert may be different from those grown in a rain forest.

**How do different factors affect seed germination? Factors that you could test include the intensity, duration, or type of light, the temperature, the amount of water, the presence/absence of certain chemicals, or the presence/absence of soil. You can look at the percentage of seeds that germinate or the rate at which seeds germinate.**

**Does the color of crayon affect the melting temperature?**

**Is a seed affected by its size? Do different size seeds have different germination rates or percentages?**

**Is a seed affected by its size? Does seed size affect the growth rate or final size of a plant?**

How does cold storage affect the germination of seeds? Factors you can control include the type of seeds, length of storage, temperature of storage, light and humidity.

**What conditions affect the ripening of fruit? Look at ethylene and enclosing a fruit in a sealed bag, light, or nearness to other pieces of fruit.**

How are different soils affected by erosion? You can make your own wind or water and evaluate the effects on soil. If you have access to a very cold freezer, you can look at the effects of temperatures.

**Does the type of plant or flower determine the color that can be absorbed in water?**

How does the pH of soil relate to the pH of the water around the soil? You can use pH paper, test the pH of the soil, add water, then test the pH of the water. Are the values the same? If not, is there a relationship between them?

What is the effect of a chemical on a plant? You can look at unusual substances (e.g., orange juice, baking soda). Factors that you can measure include rate of plant growth, leaf size, life/death of the plant, color of plant, and ability to flower/bear fruit.

**Does the amount of caffeine affect the pH levels of different drinks?**

Do cockroaches have a preference for direction? Catch and release cockroaches. Which way do they go? Is there a common trend or not? You can try this project with ants or other crawling insects.

**Do cut flowers last longer if you put them in warm water, room temperature water, or in cold water?**

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**Do colored ice cubes melt at the same rate as clear ice cubes? Add food coloring to an ice cube tray and compare how long the colored cubes take to melt compared with the regular ones.**

**Does temperature affect how fruits ripen?**

**Will seeds germinate if you soak them in a liquid other than water? You can try milk, juice, vinegar, and other common household liquids. Alternatively, you could see if plants will grow if they are 'watered' with liquids other than water.**

**Do all crayon colors last the same?**

**Make a simple homemade windmill. What is the best number of blades, shapes of blades, or materials of blades for the windmill?**

**How much salt (or sugar) can a plant tolerate? Water plants with different solution of salt or sugar. How high of a concentration can the plant tolerate? A related question would be to see if plants can survive if they are watered with soapy water, like leftover dishwater.**

**Do worms react when exposed to light? Do worms react differently to different colors of light?**

**Do ants prefer different types of sugar? Different types of sugar are found in table sugar, honey, maple syrup, and molasses.**

**Are waterproof mascaras really waterproof?**

**Compare the water filtration rate of different brands of coffee filters. Take 1 cup of liquid and time how long it takes to pass through the filter. Do you think the difference in time affects the flavor of coffee made using the filters?**

**Do flowers drink warm water and room temperature water faster, slower, or at the same rate as cold water?**

**Do lipsticks really keep their color as long as advertised?**

**Do clothes take the same length of time to dry if you add different types of dryer sheets or fabric softener to the load?**

**Which melts faster: ice cream, sherbert, or ice milk?**

**Which melts faster: frozen milk, frozen 1% milk, frozen 2% milk or non-fat milk?**

**Does food cooked in the microwave cool at the same rate as food cooked in the oven or on the stove top?**

**Does the color of a light affect how bright it appears in fog? in water?**

**Does the temperature of a magnet affect its magnetic field lines?**

**Which type of bean plant grows the fastest?**

**Do different types of the same liquid have different heat capacities that affect its boiling rate?**

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**Which paper airplane wing design allows the plane to travel the farthest?**

**Which cup insulator keeps the liquid hotter longest?**

**Which cup insulator keeps the liquid coldest the longest?**

**How does added weight affect the flight distance of a paper airplane?**

**Effect of the shape of a paper airplane on the distance it travels**  
**Magnetic field variations due to temperature**

**Does the weight of the Pendulum affect its motion?**

**Which material makes the best heat insulator?**

**Which clothing color absorbs the most heat?**

**Which color cools off the quickest?**

**How does the dissolving times of sugar-free and regular sugared items compare?**

**Which vegetables has the highest electrical charge?**

**Which fruit has the highest electrical charge?**

**Does the amount of cacao in chocolate affect its melting time?**

**Do different brands of popcorn leave different amounts of unpopped kernels?**

**Which paper allows a paper boat to float the longest?**

**How much weight can a paper or metal boat hold before sinking?**

**Which levee construction holds the most force?**

**Which brand of filter best filters substances from water?**

**Which brand of filter is the strongest?**

**How does the shape and mass of an object affect its velocity when sinking through water?**

**How does the type of surface of an inclined plane affect how far and how fast an object travels?**

**How is the speed of a skateboard rolling down a ramp affected by the amount of weight on the cart?**

**How does doubling grocery bags affect the weight it can hold?**

**Which is the best natural cleaners clean stains?**

**Which rust protection works the best?**

**What material is best for cleaning up oil spills?**

**Which stain remover works the best?**

**Which detergent has the longest lasting suds?**

**What water additive preserves cut flowers the longest?**

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**Which suntan lotion lasts the longest in water?**

**How does diluting water-soluble glue affect its holding strength?**

**How does adding ingredients to water affect the water's boiling time?  
How are bubbles affected by additives in the water?**

**How does yeast or baking powder affect the rising surface of a baked item?**

**Will double the amount of baking powder double the size of the item?**

**Which breakfast cereal absorbs the most milk- ones with higher sugar concentrations or those that are less sweet (less sugar)?**

**How does the temperature of liquids affect the amount absorbed by cereal?  
Which plants grow faster in water than in soil?**

**Which color light allows for the best plant growth?**

**Do seeds sprout better in hot or colder climates?**

**Which soil type soaks up more water?**

**Does size of a fruit affect the number of seeds it contains?**

**Which plants have the greatest rate of transpiration?**

**What is the best depth for growing bean seeds in potted soil?**

**What is the effect of tap water, mineral water, and seltzer water on the germination and growth of seeds?**

**Which type of soils do earthworms prefer the most?**