

Earth Science Project for 2013

Due Date: March 22, 2013

This project is required of all students in Benson's Honors Earth Science classes for the third quarter. It is worth 50 points.

Pick a topic that interests you: A list of possible topics is provided on this web site: www.formontana.net/project.html. Find one that you are interested in that other people will enjoy learning about. Pick 2-3 topics (in case you don't get your first choice). Meet in Benson's room at 12:05 pm on a Thursday in February (TBA) for a lottery-style draft. You will be given a number, and then the draft will begin. Only one person will be allowed to do a project on any given topic. You may not do group projects, but you can do complimentary projects side-by-side.

Become an expert: Use the Internet and other sources to learn more about your topic. If it is a topic that has already been covered in class, a higher level of expertise will be expected.

Make a poster: The poster should be a three-panel "presentation board" (36' x 48"). The target audience for your poster should be adults who stop by with their children. The poster should include the following.

1. A title in the form of a question to draw people in, and a sub-title to help people understand your explanation. The title (and your name) should be prominently displayed on your poster.
2. Visual aids (3-5), such as photos, diagrams, and graphs that will help people understand your topic and help you explain it. The source of each image should be credited on the poster
3. Come up with what you consider to be the five most important "level 1 questions", the three most important "level 2 questions", and one good "level 3 questions" related to your topic. These should be taped to the back (upper, center) of your poster. You might consider using some of these questions on front of your poster as well.
4. Explanations or captions to help visitors understand several aspects of your topic.

Have something to show: You must have something to show people as they view your poster at the Science Circus. This can be a model, a device, a demonstration, a collection of items related to your topic, or something else that has been approved by your instructor. If you have something to show on a laptop computer, that's great, but it does not count as "something to show". What ever you show should be interesting (or entertaining), and should be used to help you explain your topic to both kids and adults (especially kids; think "5th graders" as you design this). As you plan, keep in mind that you may not have access to an electrical outlet.

Pass on your expertise: You will display your poster at the Science Circus (in the HHS gym) on March 22 or 23. You can choose Friday evening from 6-9 pm, Saturday from 11 am to 1 pm, or 1 to 3 pm. During that time you will stand by your poster, show your demonstration (and explain) as people come by. Part of your grade will be based on how well you do this. If you can't participate in the Science Circus, you will have to make other arrangements with Mr. Benson.

Be original: Use your imagination! Try to include original elements, such as artwork, physical models, videos, costumes, PowerPoint presentations, demonstrations, etc.

Grade: A rubric will be posted (www.formontana.net/project.html) by February 1.