



WEEK 2:

Conduct Background Research



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Goal: Build a foundation of knowledge about your topic.

Tasks:

☐ Find Information:

- Look for books in your school or local library about your topic.
- Search for articles or videos online from trusted sources like .edu, .gov, or .org websites.

☐ Take Notes:

- Write down what you learn in your own words.
- Organize your notes into sections, such as:
 - Important words and definitions.
 - Cool experiments others have done.
 - Big discoveries or important facts.
- Use the attached *Background Research Organizer* to help you with this.

☐ Look for Missing Information:

- Ask yourself what questions still need answers about your topic.
- Think about what experiments you could do to help find those answers.

☐ Make a Source List:

- Write down where you found your information, like the book title, website name, or article author.
- Keep this list neat, you'll need it later in your project

☐ Improve Your Question:

- Use what you've learned to make your project question clearer and more specific.
- Example: Instead of "What helps plants grow?" try "How does sunlight affect the height of bean plants?"

Additional Activities:

- Write a Summary
 - In one or two paragraphs, explain the most interesting things you've learned so far.
 - Include any cool facts or ideas you want to explore more.
- Share Fun Facts
 - Make a list of the coolest facts or discoveries about your topic.
 - Think about how they could help make your experiment awesome.

Tip: Use good sources. Stick to books, websites, and articles from experts or trusted organizations. Avoid random blogs or websites that might not have accurate information.

Background Research Organizer

Topic: _____

Important Words & Definitions:

In this section, write down any key words or terms you come across while researching your topic. Understanding these words will help you explain your project better. Make sure to write the definitions in your own words so they're easy to remember and share.

Word	Definition

Cool Experiments or Discoveries:

Use this section to record interesting experiments or discoveries related to your topic. Write down what the experiment was about, who did it, and why it's important or exciting. This can give you inspiration for your own project and help you learn from others' work!

Experiment/Discovery Name: _____

- What it's about: _____

- Why it's interesting: _____

Experiment/Discovery Name: _____

- What it's about: _____

- Why it's interesting: _____

Experiment/Discovery Name: _____

- What it's about: _____

- Why it's interesting: _____

Big Facts or Key Information

Use this section to write down the most important things you've learned about your topic. Organize your facts into categories to make them easier to understand.

For example, you could have categories like "How It Works," "History," or "Fun Facts." This will help you see connections between ideas and decide what's most useful for your project.

Category: _____

- Fact: _____

- Fact: _____

Category: _____

- Fact: _____

- Fact: _____

Category: _____

- Fact: _____

- Fact: _____

Questions I Still Have

In this section, write down any questions you weren't able to answer through research. Can you answer these with your experiment? Use these to make your research question more specific.

Question: _____

Question: _____

Question: _____

Sources List

Use this section to write down a list of your sources and their authors.

Source: _____
Author: _____

Source: _____
Author: _____

Source: _____
Author: _____

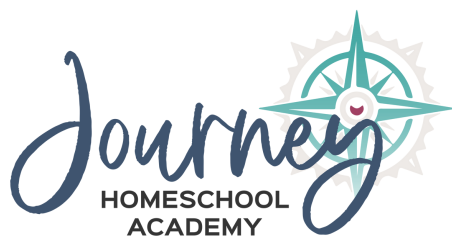
Source: _____
Author: _____

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