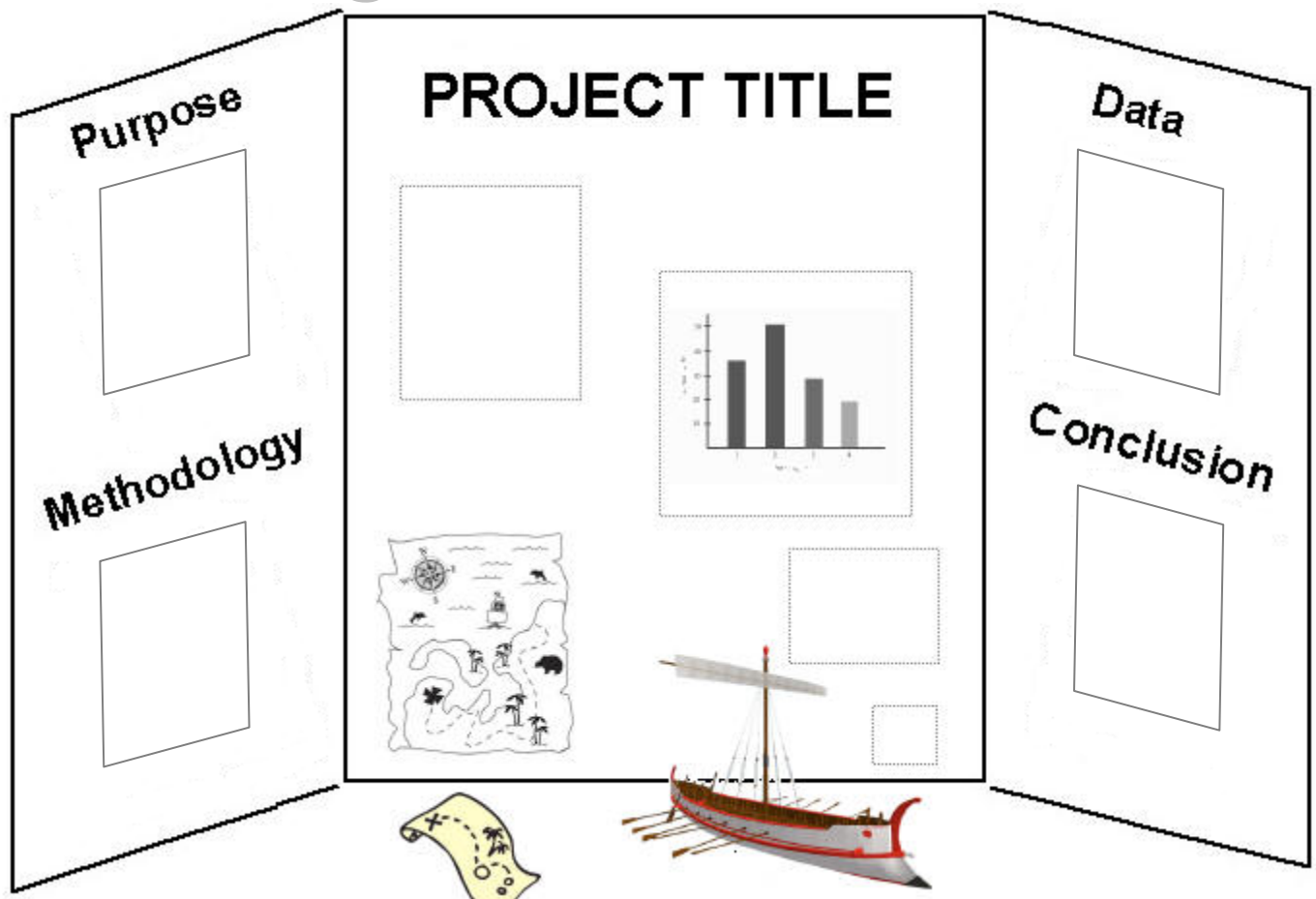


# Harbins Elementary School Social Studies

# FAIR

## Project Directions



4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

Project Begins: January 6, 2012

Project Due: February 16, 2012

Social Studies Fair: February 23, 2012 @ 6:30 P.M.

Dear Parents,

Your child will be taking part in a Social Studies Fair homework project, an exciting event that encourages students to think like young social scientists. During the next few weeks your child will be designing a project that requires using both questioning and research skills. Completing the project will stimulate imagination and independent thinking, increase knowledge in many areas, enable the use of the research processes, help students in the organization and completion of major tasks, and provide children with an opportunity to enjoy a variety of social studies topics.

Harbins Social Studies Fair will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. This project must be completed at home and is due on February 16, 2012. A reminder will be sent home about when and where to bring students' projects to school. Arrangements should be made to transport the project to school on the due date (not on the bus) and home from school the evening of the fair.

**DO NOT PUT NAMES ON PROJECTS. USE THE INCLUDED PROJECT NUMBER ONLY.**

We ask that you monitor and encourage your child's progress. Your support is key to a successful project, but please do not allow your involvement to extend any further. In order to assure equity and promote student learning, it is important that your child wrestle with problems and try to solve them. Guide your child wherever and whenever you can, but let the final project reflect your child's individual effort and design.

We have attached a step-by-step guide to help your child complete their project and also a scoring sheet so the students can see what judges are looking for in each category.

*Students may **NOT** do a project that involves dangerous substances or cruel or inhumane treatment of animals or humans.*

*Students should write or type all information in their own words. Please do not include text that has been photocopied, etc.*

If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher or Dr. Mullins by email at [Emmett\\_Mullins@gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:Emmett_Mullins@gwinnett.k12.ga.us).

Sincerely,  
The Social Studies Action Team  
Harbins Elementary School

# Let's Get Started!

1. Choose a category, topic, and question.

Circle the category that fits your topic. Each topic is followed by a sample question.

- **Anthropology**- the study of people and human development, both physical and cultural. What Native Americans lived in my area?
- **Economics**-the study of goods and services. How does the doughnut store make money?
- **Geography**-the study of the earth's components including the changes that occur to the land, water, and atmosphere. Where does the stream near my house flow?
- **History**-people are descendants and belong to a country, institution, and community. Where are my ancestors from?
- **Political Science**-the study of people and how they work with other people and countries. How do local government leaders spend tax money?
- **Sociology/Social Psychology**-the study of man's life and community. How are families' traditions alike and different?

Write your topic here. It should be something that interests you, is not too broad or too narrow, and something you can actually research.

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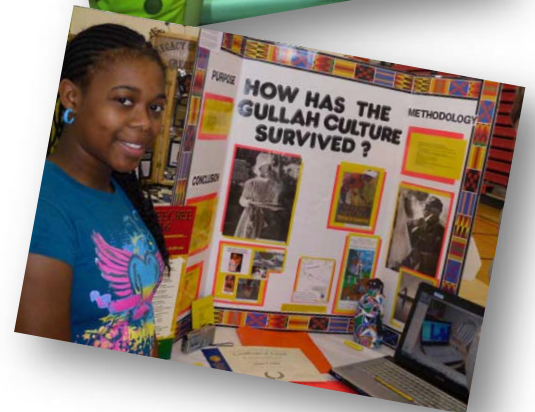
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Write your research question here. The question you write down will be the question that you will research for your project. You will try to solve this question throughout your research. There are examples in this packet.

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## Now, it's time for the work!

2. Conduct your research. This part will take the longest. As you work, be sure to stay focused on your research question. Make sure your work will help you answer it!

### **HYPOTHESIS**

A hypothesis states what you think the answer is to your question before you do the research. This should be written in a complete sentence. My hypothesis is:

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### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of your project should be a short paragraph explaining your reason or reasons for choosing your topic.

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### **PROCEDURE (METHODOLOGY)**

When completing a research project, you should use three or more sources. Some examples of sources you could use are encyclopedias, books, magazines, pamphlets, websites, or newspaper articles. People are also resources. You might do surveys or interviews to collect information. You will also have to list the steps that you use in order to complete your project. These steps should list your sources, along with your other steps. Be sure to keep notes of your sources for your bibliography.

Write your procedure in complete sentences.

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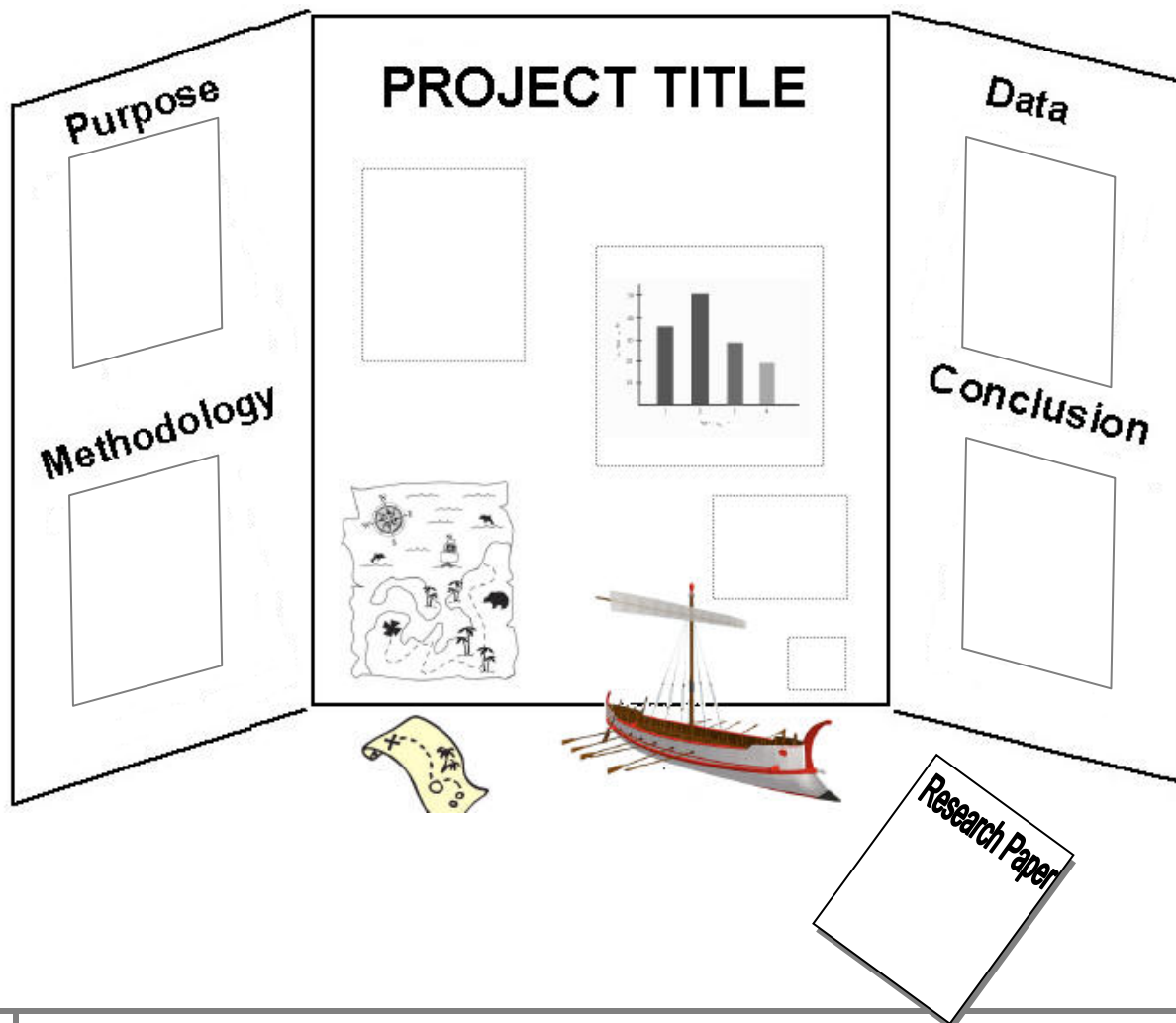


you prove or disprove your hypothesis? What kinds of research questions do you have now that you have finished? What other questions could be asked? What would you do differently next time?

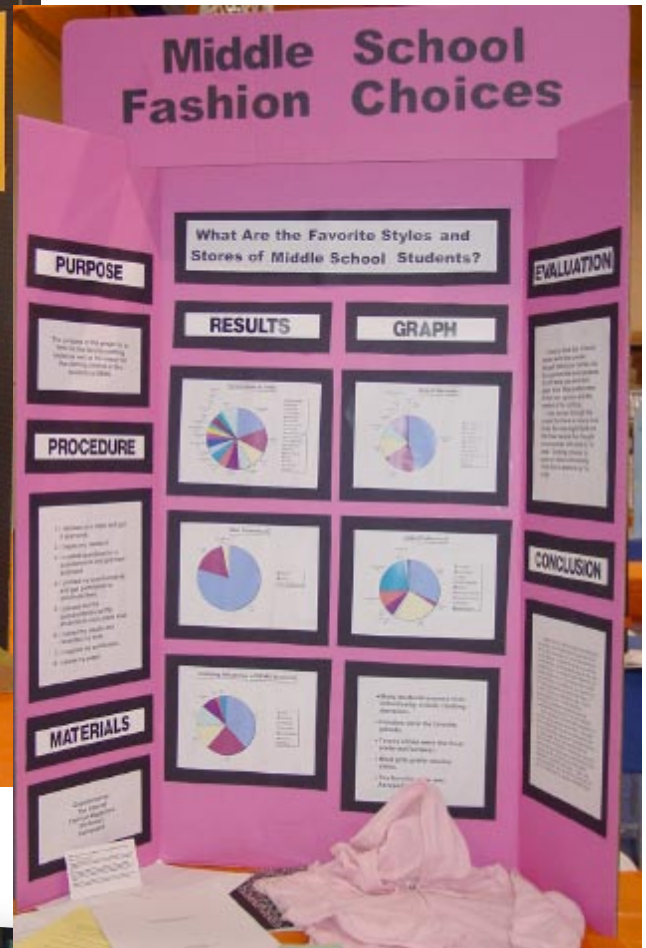
- 5) **BIBLIOGRAPHY:** A bibliography page is a list of the resources you used in order to complete your research paper. Arrange the list of resources into ABC order according to the author's last name. If the author is unknown, use the name of the book or title of the article or website. Mrs. Brooks has information in the media center about this kind of stuff! ☺
- 6) **CREDIT PAGE:** The credit page will include the names of people who helped you with your project. This can include names of your family members or anyone you talked to about your topic. The credit page should be in complete sentences in a paragraph format. You must state how each person helped you. A list of names will not be accepted.

## Show It!

Making your display is really fun! Look at some of the pictures in this packet for ideas. All projects/displays must be free standing. The use of a tri-fold board is highly recommended and the dimensions should be no bigger than: 48"W x 36"H open, 24"W x 36"H folded. See example below. The tri-fold board may be purchased at the Harbins School Store.



**Sample Social Studies Fair Projects & Research Questions**



- “Are You Ready if Disaster Strikes?”
- “Citizenship – Can You Pass the Test?”
- “What is Coca-Cola’s History and Economic Impact on Georgia?”
- “What are Protected Species in Gwinnett County?”
- “How Do Tweens Spend Their Money?”
- “How Much Technology Do We Have?”
- “How Much ‘Screen Time’ are Students Getting?”
- “Where is My Family From?”
- “What Stories Do My Relatives Tell?”
- “How Do Storm Chasers Help Save Lives?”
- “Andersonville: The Worst Civil War Prison”
- “Common Cents: Should the Penny Go?”
- “How Many People Can Identify the Continents?”
- “How Does Waffle House Make Money?”
- “What Does the Pledge of Allegiance Mean?”



## Time Line of Events and Things to Do for Social Studies Fair Project

Week of	Task	Check when Completed
January 6 – January 12	Project directions sent home. Choose your topic. Begin learning about your topic. Visit the library and do some research.	
January 13–January 20	Decide how to do your research. Write your research question and hypothesis. Make a list of the materials and procedures for your research. Read it to your family and make sure you have listed every step. Make sure you have completed pages 3, 4, and 5 in the packet.	
January 23-January 31	Conduct the research and record data. Analyze your data. Include charts, graphs, tables, pictures, photographs, etc. Write your conclusion to summarize your learning. Be sure to answer these question: What did you learn from your research? What would you do differently? What new questions did you think about because of your research? Remember to take photos or draw pictures to document your research. Complete the Write It! part of the project (see pages 5 and 6).	
February 1-February 12	Make the display.It should be neat and colorful and include a display board (described in the packet). Include color drawings or photos of your graphs, data, and project. Mount them for an attractive looking display (see pages 6 and 7).	
February 13-February 16	Bring your project to school the week of February 13 <sup>th</sup> – February 16 <sup>th</sup> in the morning. February 23 <sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 p.m. is the school-wide fair. Parents are invited to view the exhibits at the Fair. Projects must go home the night of the event.  <b>&gt;Any projects not picked up will be disposed of.</b>	

*Mark your paper and your display with your PROJECT NUMBER only!*

*TURN IN THIS PACKET WITH YOUR PROJECT! Pages 3, 4, 5, and 8 must be completed.*

# Social Studies Fair – Judges’ Score Sheet

Project Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Judges will circle the score for each item, total each Section and the Grand Total.

	Excellent	Good	Needs Work	Not Found
<b>Part I: Statement of the Question Being Researched (5 Points)</b>				
The project includes a/an:				
a. question or purpose that is clearly stated	n/a	1	0	0
b. question or purpose that is original and explores something new	n/a	1	0	0
c. question or purpose that is neither too small nor too broad	n/a	1	0	0
d. question or purpose that relates to an important and interesting social studies topic	n/a	1	0	0
e. abstract that states the project title, purpose, methods, and summary	n/a	1	0	0

<b>Section Total</b>	
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## Part II: Summary Report (30 Points)

The summary report includes:

a. a statement of the problem (the research question and why it is important)	n/a	2	1	0
b. developed topic	5	4	3	0
c. interpretation of the topic	5	4	3	0
d. evidence of critical thinking (explanation of the data)	5	4	3	0
e. a logical conclusion that is well-developed and answers the research question	5	4	3	0
f. correct grammar	n/a	2	1	0
g. correct spelling	n/a	2	1	0
h. correct punctuation	n/a	2	1	0
i. correct citing of sources (sources page)	n/a	2	1	0

<b>Section Total</b>	
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## Part III: Visual Display (25 Points)

The visual display includes or demonstrates:

a. the question or purpose	n/a	1	0	0
b. summary of the method (how the research was done)	n/a	1	0	0
c. a conclusion from the research (summary)	n/a	1	0	0
d. data and information to support the conclusion	n/a	1	0	0
e. appropriate choice, or correct use of media to present data	5	4	3	0
f. a pleasing visual and/or auditory effect	3	2	1	0
g. good workmanship (accurate, neat, good craftsmanship)	3	2	1	0
h. creative and/or original (including absence of commercially prepared models) in construction, arrangement, and presentation of materials	3	2	1	0
i. display and other media within size and time limits	3	0	0	0
j. correct grammar	n/a	1	0	0
k. correct spelling	n/a	1	0	0
l. correct punctuation	n/a	1	0	0

<b>Section Total</b>	
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Continued on back ...

<b>Excellent</b>	<b>Good</b>	<b>Needs Work</b>	<b>Not Found</b>
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**Part IV: Oral Presentation (10 points)**

The student demonstrates:

- |                                                                                    |   |   |   |   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| a. knowledge of the content, vocabulary, and research process used in the project  | 5 | 4 | 3 | 0 |
| b. confidence, poise, and projection                                               | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| c. thought as to additional research that might be done as a result of the project | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 |

<b>Section Total</b>	
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**Part V: Method (30 points)**

The project shows:

- |                                                                                                                       |   |   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| a. good investigation with adequate and reliable sources                                                              | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| b. enough data to support conclusions                                                                                 | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| c. evidence of application of social studies skills (for example: gathering and interpreting data, interpreting maps) | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| d. relevance (all information is related to the project's question or purpose)                                        | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |
| e. evidence of analyzing and interpreting the data                                                                    | 6 | 5 | 4 | 0 |

<b>Section Total</b>	
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**GRAND TOTAL** \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS:

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JUDGE'S CODE: \_\_\_\_\_