

Inquiry Project Checklist

Topic

- ☐ Do students have the necessary background knowledge of the topic to conduct an inquiry? Will they need to learn a great deal of content before they can participate in the project?
- ☐ How long can I spend on the unit?
- ☐ Other than scientific inquiry, what other standards will the unit meet? Does the number of standards the unit addresses warrant the time that the scientific inquiry project will take?
- ☐ What processes and habits of mind will I emphasize in this project?
- ☐ Does the subject naturally inspire or generate curiosity?
- ☐ Will students work on the project individually, in groups, or with a partner? What will assure effective collaboration on the project?
- ☐ Do I have access to resources such as field sites, experts, materials, and tools to support students in their inquiry?

Exploration

- ☐ How will I introduce the project?
- ☐ How will students access their prior knowledge? How will I identify misconceptions that must be addressed?
- ☐ Will students do some preliminary hands-on research or search for information on the Internet?
- ☐ How will I support students as they generate questions to investigate? What prompts or tools might they use?

Investigation

- ☐ What prompts will I use to guide students in the direction that will address the standards I am targeting?
- ☐ What instruction will students need for collecting and organizing the data and information they collect?
- ☐ What resources will I provide? What resources will I expect students to find on their own?
- ☐ How will I give just the right amount of direction and feedback on students' investigation designs and implementations?
- ☐ What other content-related experiences will I use to enhance student learning during the investigation phase of the project?

Interpretation

- ☐ What skills will my students use when they interpret their findings? Will they use some skills they are proficient at and others that will challenge them? What skills will require instruction and support?
- ☐ How will I arrange for students to get others' ideas on their conclusions? Will they share with peers? Are experts available to give feedback?

Presentation

- ☐ What options will students have for presenting their findings? Will they use digital tools? Will there be a face-to-face component for the presentations?
- ☐ Will there be a formal showcase at the end of the project? Will people outside the classroom be invited? Other classes? Parents? Experts? Community members? What kind of arrangements will I have to make?