

**3. Research your topic to learn more about it.**

Research comes in many forms. You can research a topic by going to the library, performing Internet research, interviewing a scientist, or even speaking with experts at museums, zoos, hospitals, and so on. For our example, you might interview a spokesperson or scientist from a bubble-gum company.

**4. Develop a hypothesis, or a possible answer to your question.**

Your *hypothesis* should be based on your research. It is important to remember that it is okay if your hypothesis turns out to be wrong. You can learn a lot from any hypothesis—whether it is right or wrong. Your science-fair project will help you test your hypothesis.

**5. Design an experiment that will help you answer your research question.**

Come up with an experiment *procedure*. This list of steps should be detailed enough so that anyone could read it and repeat the experiment exactly as you performed it.

You will want to run several trials. That means that you'll want to repeat your experiment several times. The more times you repeat the experiment, the more reliable your results will be.

Record your experiment results in a journal. The more notes you take, the easier it will be to type up your report (more on that later). Also, take photos to document your work as you go.

**6. Draw conclusions from your results and type up a report that explains your project, results, and conclusions.**

The report should be typed and include neat and colorful charts and graphs.