



# Background Research Plan Worksheet

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is the question you are going try to answer with an experiment? \_\_\_\_\_

2. List the **keywords** and phrases from your question and the topic in general. (Hint: Use an encyclopedia to help you)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Now use your keywords to build some questions to guide your background research. Develop at least two or three from each “question word.” Don’t worry about whether you already know the answer to the question—you’ll find the answers when you do your background research. And don’t forget to “network” with knowledgeable adults who can help guide you toward good materials!

Question Word	Possible Questions (you can think of others)	Substitute your keywords (or variations of your keywords) for the blanks in the previous column. Write down the relevant questions and use them to guide your background research.
Why	Why does _____ happen? Why does _____ work? Why _____? Why _____?	
How	How does _____ happen? How does _____ work? How does _____ detect _____? How does one measure _____? How do we use _____? How _____?	