

Winning First Place in Our School Science Fair

Introduction

The Annual School Science Fair provides students with an exciting opportunity to explore scientific concepts and showcase their creativity. This report details my team's experience participating in this year's fair, which took place in the school auditorium on March 15th. Our team of three Grade 8 students - Sarah, James, and myself - conducted an investigation into natural fertilizers to understand which would be most effective for sustainable gardening. We participated to develop our research skills and demonstrate practical applications of scientific methods.

1. What is the topic of this report?

2. Where and when did the science fair take place?

3. Who participated from the team and what was their specific goal?

4. What was the main subject of their investigation and why did they choose it?

5. Identify the sentence that explains how they planned to approach their project.

6. Are there any linking words or phrases in the introduction?

Our Project

Our team designed an experiment to test the effect of different types of natural fertilizers on plant growth. We spent several weeks researching, planning, and conducting experiments in the school laboratory. The objective was to identify which organic fertilizer produced the healthiest plants while following proper scientific methods. We documented our observations carefully and created colorful charts and models for our presentation.

Achievements and Challenges

Our project was well-received by both teachers and fellow students. We managed to present our findings clearly and answer questions from the judges with confidence. As a result, our team won first place in the science fair. However, there were challenges along the way. Coordinating schedules for lab sessions and ensuring consistent watering for the plants required careful planning. In the future, we would set up a timetable to manage tasks more efficiently.

Impact on Team Members and Myself

Working on the science fair project improved our collaboration, communication, and problem-solving skills. I personally learned the importance of patience and attention to detail while conducting experiments. The experience boosted our confidence in presenting scientific work and reinforced the value of teamwork in achieving goals.

7. List the three subheadings used in the main body.

8. Find linking words or time expressions that show sequence or time.

9. Which sentences describe **achievements** of the team?

10. Which sentences describe **challenges** or areas for improvement?

Conclusion

In conclusion, participating in the science fair and winning first place was both rewarding and educational. The project strengthened our scientific skills, teamwork, and confidence. Reflecting on the experience, we are motivated to take on more challenging projects in the future and continue applying what we have learned to real-life situations.

11. How does the conclusion summarize the main points of the report?

12. Which sentences show **personal reflection**?

13. Are there any recommendations or suggestions for future projects?

14. Identify any linking words or phrases used to indicate conclusion.

Answer key for the worksheet titled: The Effects of Plastic Pollution on Marine Life

1. What is the general topic of the report?

The effects of plastic pollution on marine life.

2. Which sentence gives a general statement about plastic pollution?

"Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues of our time."

3. Identify the thesis statement / purpose of the report.

"This report examines the detrimental effects of plastic pollution on marine life, focusing on how it disrupts ecosystems, harms wildlife, and threatens biodiversity."

4. Which words or phrases show that the report is formal?

"Detrimental effects," "endangering marine ecosystems," "threatens biodiversity," "examines," "severe consequences."

5. Are there any linking words or expressions in the introduction that connect ideas?

"From entanglement to ingestion," "due to," "focusing on."

6. Look at the Causes paragraph. Can you find any special expressions that show cause or reason?

"One of the main causes," "Another significant cause," "result in," "contribute to."

7. Look at the Effects paragraph. Identify linking words that show result or consequence?

"Which can cause," "restricting their movement and sometimes resulting in," "eventually affect," "Overall, these effects."

8. What formal words are used to describe the impact on marine life?

"Ingest plastic," "internal injuries or death," "entangled," "restricting movement," "disrupts marine food chains," "threaten biodiversity," "health of ocean ecosystems."

9. How does the author organize ideas in each paragraph?

- **Causes paragraph:** Ideas are organized by listing the main causes of plastic pollution in order of significance.
- **Effects paragraph:** Ideas are organized by describing the types of effects on marine life, from individual animals to ecosystems, showing consequences.

10. How does the conclusion summarize the main points of the report?

It restates the main causes (human littering, single-use plastics, inadequate waste management) and the main effects (ingestion, entanglement, disruption of food chains) and emphasizes the seriousness of plastic pollution.

11. Which sentences give recommendations or solutions?

- “To reduce this problem, individuals should recycle plastics, limit the use of single-use items, and participate in awareness campaigns.”
- “Governments and organizations must also implement stricter waste management policies.”

12. Are there any special expressions used to indicate conclusion or summary?

“In conclusion,” “To reduce this problem,” “Overall...”

13. Identify any linking words that show cause, effect, or sequence in the conclusion.

“To reduce this problem,” “must also implement,” “essential for preserving biodiversity,” “ensuring a sustainable environment.”

14. Suggest one more solution to reduce plastic pollution.

Encourage companies and people to **use biodegradable materials** instead of plastic and **choose reusable items** like cloth bags, metal bottles, and containers.