

Elementary Schools - Wall Display Competition

What is a Wall Display?

A Wall Display is simply a poster - a poster that has something to do with Science. The term Wall Display was coined by the United Counties Science Fair Committee, to encourage creativity among the entrants, by not restricting them to making a conventional flat 'poster'. Students are encouraged to use their creativity to do a display on something related to Science. Some of the 3-dimensional, interactive posters that have been created for other fairs have been quite impressive. Wall Displays can vary from a simple collage of the four food groups, to an intermediate volcano display in 3-D, to an investigation of endangered species - complete with a world map, and reference cards about each species tied to each location. The limits are endless - and student creativity is encouraged.

What is the purpose of a Wall Display Competition?

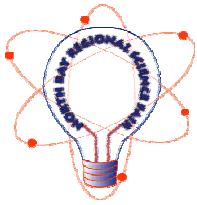
There are many benefits to a Wall Display competition:

- ✓ allows teachers to reinforce class themes with projects;
- ✓ students can access community resources for information (family, elders etc...);
- ✓ students do research and learn for a purpose - in order to enter the Science Fair, not simply for the sake of learning how to use an encyclopedia;
- ✓ students have a chance to SHOW-OFF their work and be recognized publicly;
- ✓ students practice scientific thinking for use later on in the upper Grades and in life;
- ✓ students gain important and valuable skills by doing Wall Displays in Grades 1-5. These include: inquiry and curiosity about the world around us; decision-making; independent study and time management; co-operative work; problem-solving skills; research skills, assembling information - summarizing and reading for relevant information; library skills - alphabetizing, indexes; writing for a purpose and to get reader's attention; using the scientific method of inquiry; computer skills; measurement; and, creativity in assembling a display

The importance of learning these skills is emphasized by the opportunity to build on them year after year.

How Does the Wall Display Competition Work?

1. Interested schools e-mail the NBRSF committee in advance to book their spots and provide a list of registrants. This must be done no later than March 23rd, but it is strongly recommended that schools book early as space is limited. There will be no entry fee for the Wall Display competition.
2. Posters can be up to 65 cm x 80 cm (the size of a full sheet of Bristol board) and must be of a size and weight that they can be hung on the wall with 'painters' masking tape.
3. Students can enter individually or in pairs.
4. The student's name, grade and school must be put on the bottom right corner of the poster.
5. The school is responsible for getting the posters to the Nipissing/Canadore gymnasium the morning of the science fair by 9:00 am. The committee volunteers will hang the displays on the walls for the students.
6. Schools are encouraged to bring their students to the Science Fair for a portion of the day, but it is not necessary for the students to attend any portion of the fair.



NORTH BAY REGIONAL SCIENCE FAIR
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7. After judging the school will be responsible to have someone pick up the displays by 7:00pm along with the student participation certificates.
8. Awards for the top Wall Display will be announced during the science fair awards ceremony from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
9. There is a limit of 10 posters per school. To select the top Wall Displays from your school you can run an in-school Wall Display Competition to suit your own school's philosophy and needs.

How are Wall Displays Judged / Marked?

The marking scheme used at the North Bay Regional Science Fair for Wall Displays is as follows:

Does it look appealing?.....	30%
Is there Scientific Content?.....	30%
Is it Accurate?.....	15%
Is it Creative?.....	15%
Can it be easily read?.....	5%
Is the grammar and spelling correct?.....	5%

Tips and Hints for Teachers

Teachers will need to do some work trying to narrow down student topics, and to get students to finish their work on time. Here are some helpful tips for teachers and students on how to make a successful Wall Display:

- ✓ Assign marks for the work. Make it a part of the Science curriculum.
- ✓ A good idea is to make the Wall Displays the end project of a Science unit your class has completed. This makes the researching and teaching a lot easier.
- ✓ Try to brainstorm appropriate ideas with the students and 'clear' topic ideas before they begin researching. This will save time that is wasted looking for topics that aren't scientific, or for topics that are too complex.
- ✓ Give deadlines for certain parts to be completed (e.g. the written work, the blueprint...).
- ✓ Narrow down topics that are too broad.
- ✓ Have students hand in a blueprint of their poster before giving them the bristol board to use. The poster should be well thought out, and have all of the information needed. This avoids the overzealous student that glues on a ton of pictures, then has no room for their written work.
- ✓ Encourage students to research and rewrite information in their own words. A Wall Display that simply regurgitates encyclopedia words is not good. Check work for grammar and spelling mistakes.
- ✓ Emphasize NEATNESS. This is a good opportunity for students to practice their organization, measurement and artistic skills. Typing work on the computer is a good idea.
- ✓ Be creative. The more interesting the student's project, the better. Let them know that they can create 3-D models, bring in artifacts from home, draw or use magazine pictures or photos, etc...
- ✓ Make a catchy title, add lots of colour, glue on real feathers, leaves etc...
- ✓ Have fun!