

6. A *limerick* is a five-line poem with a specific rhythm. Here's an example (you can find more at www.brownielocks.com/kidlimericks.html):

*There once was an ape in a zoo
Who looked through the bars and saw YOU.
Do you think it's fair
To give apes a scare?
I think it's a mean thing to do.*

Write a limerick that uses as the first line:
“There once was a flea on a dog . . .”

7. If you have a cat, you can do a science project on purring. **Observe your cat on a regular basis** for at least a month. In your project notebook, note when, where, and for how long your cat purrs. Can you draw any conclusions about what makes your cat purr or how purring benefits your pet?



FOOD

1. Elizabeth Barrett Browning (1806–61) started her famous Sonnet 43 with this line: “How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.” Use that first line to **introduce a list of the reasons why you love chocolate.**



2. The average American eats 12 pounds of chocolate a year. **How many cacao beans is that?**

(Answer: 4,800)

3. Chocolate bars have interesting names, such as Three Musketeers, Snickers, Milky Way, and Almond Joy. **Research these chocolate treats** to find out how they got their names. Then invent your own name for a chocolate bar and explain why you like it—both the candy and the name!

4. Do some colors of M&Ms melt at lower temperatures than others?

Here's how to find out. On a white paper (not Styrofoam) plate, place five tiny drops of glue in a circular pattern. Put a plain (not peanut) M&M chocolate on each drop, one of each of five different colors. Allow the glue to dry. Microwave on high for 20 seconds. Remove and look for cracks or other signs of melting. Record what you see. Continue microwaving 10 seconds at a time, observing after each heating interval. The number of cracks you observe tells you which candy melts first. *Do not touch the candies; they are hot! Do not eat the candies!*

5. Make some quick, easy, individual pizzas: Split and toast an English muffin. Spread some bottled pizza sauce on each muffin half. Top with some grated cheese. Place the muffins in the microwave and cook until the cheese melts, about 30 seconds—if the cheese starts bubbling, stop the microwave and remove. Allow the muffins to cool a bit before eating. Serves 2.

6. Do a survey to see if “What’s Your Pizza Personality?” on page 148 holds true. **Make a questionnaire that asks volunteers to check off their favorite kind of pizza** and the personality phrase that best describes them. Tally your results into a data table. Do the pizza preferences and personal characteristics match those of the people who completed your survey?

7. The largest-ever rectangular pizza measured 129 feet by 98 feet and supported 4,000 pounds of cheese. If you ate a slice of that pizza that was 6 inches square, how much cheese would you get?

(Answer: 0.08 pound, or about 1.3 ounces.)

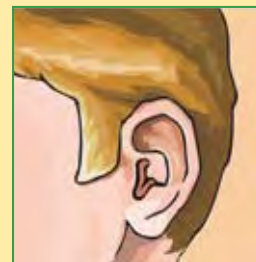
8. Find or draw pictures of the different kinds of insects mentioned in “Honey, Eat Your Ants!” on pages 150–151. On a large map of the world, pin the pictures to the countries where the insects are favorite foods.



9. Make a squiggly caterpillar to play with. Ask an adult to cut out separate “cup” sections from an egg carton. Turn the “cups” so that they are open side down. String them together with tape. Make one end the head and glue on toothpicks for antennae. Color your caterpillar with paint or markers.

HEALTH

1. Create a sightseeing guide for visitors taking a tour of the outer, middle, and inner ear. Imagine that travelers can actually walk through the ear. Show them—in words and pictures—how the ear is constructed and how it works.



2. Try this hearing exercise. Outside, have a blindfolded volunteer stand at a spot where you’ve tied a string to a tent stake in the ground. Tie a jingle bell to your finger and start backing away while you hold the free end of the string. Ask the listener to raise a hand whenever the bell is heard. When you get so far away that the listener can no longer hear the bell, make a mark on the string. Later, with a yardstick or meter stick, you can measure the string to see how far away you were. Now repeat the same experiment, but this time hold a large sheet of cardboard in front of your finger when you ring the bell, so that it forms a barrier between you and the listener. Mark and measure the string when your listener can no longer hear the bell, as you did before. Average your results over 10 to 20 volunteers, make data tables and graphs, and you’ll end up with a super science fair project. This is only one of the dozens of project ideas you’ll find in *CliffsNotes: Parent’s Crash Course: Elementary School Science Fair Projects* by Faith Hickman Brynie (Wiley, 2005).