

Big ideas at our science fair

Reading · Lectura en inglés americano (noticia escolar): Grandes ideas en nuestra feria de ciencias

By Lucía Romero, Class 6B

Last Friday, our school held its third science fair in the gym. Students from Classes 5A, 5B, 6A and 6B presented thirty projects to families, teachers and younger children. It was the biggest science fair that our school has ever had: last year, there were only twenty projects.

The projects were very different. Mateo and Aisha built a solar oven with a cardboard box, black paper and aluminum foil. On a sunny morning, their oven melted a piece of chocolate in twenty minutes. Wei tested five kinds of paper to find the strongest one. He hung a small bag from each piece and put coins in it, one by one, until the paper tore. Valentina grew beans in three places: next to a window, in a dark box and in the fridge. The beans next to the window were the greenest and the healthiest, and the ones in the fridge didn't grow at all.

The visitors voted for their favorite project, and the winner was Omar's water filter. Omar put sand, small stones and cotton balls in a plastic bottle. Then he poured muddy water through it, and the water came out much clearer. "It isn't safe to drink," Omar explained, "but it's cleaner than the water I started with."

Our science teacher, Ms. Ortiz, was very proud. "I have never seen so many good questions at a science fair," she said. "You have all worked like real scientists this year."

What will happen next? The judges have chosen three projects for the city science fair in May: the solar oven, the water filter and the paper test. The students will present them to children from other schools. Valentina's beans are going to stay in our classroom, so we can all watch them grow. Good luck, everyone!



Word bank · Vocabulario

held (hold): celebró (celebrar)

tore (tear): se rompió (romperse)

solar oven: horno solar

cardboard box: caja de cartón

aluminum foil: papel de aluminio

melted (melt): derritió (derretir)

the strongest: el más resistente

beans: frijoles

cotton balls: bolitas de algodón

poured (pour): echó (echar), vertió (verter)

muddy: con lodo

the judges: el jurado

1 Read and write T (true) or F (false).

Lee y escribe T (verdadero) o F (falso).

1. This year's science fair was bigger than last year's.

☐ T ☐ F

2. Wei built a solar oven with Aisha.

☐ T ☐ F

3. The beans in the fridge didn't grow.

☐ T ☐ F

4. The water from Omar's filter is safe to drink.

☐ T ☐ F

2 Read and circle the correct answer.

Lee y rodea la respuesta correcta.

1. Which sentence gives the main idea of the whole article?

- a) Our school's science fair was a great success.
- b) Omar's water filter makes water safe to drink.
- c) Valentina keeps all her beans in the fridge.

2. How many projects were there at the fair this year?

- a) twenty b) twelve c) thirty

3. Who chose the projects for the city science fair?

- a) the visitors b) the judges c) the families

3 Answer the questions.

Responde a las preguntas.

1. Where did the science fair take place?

2. What did Mateo and Aisha's oven melt?

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3. Which beans were the healthiest?

4. When is the city science fair?

4 Be a school reporter.

Sé periodista del colegio.

1. Write a short news story (4-5 sentences) about an event at your school. Use the past simple and one superlative.

[Open answer](#) · [Respuesta libre](#)

2. What project would you like to present at a science fair? Write two sentences with "will".

[Open answer](#) · [Respuesta libre](#)

Big ideas at our science fair • Answer key

Soluciones • Reading • Lectura en inglés americano (noticia escolar): Grandes ideas en nuestra feria de ciencias

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3 Answer the questions.

Responde a las preguntas.

1. Where did the science fair take place?

In the gym.

2. What did Mateo and Aisha's oven melt?

A piece of chocolate.

3. Which beans were the healthiest?

The beans next to the window.

4. When is the city science fair?

In May.

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Sé periodista del colegio.

1. Write a short news story (4-5 sentences) about an event at your school. Use the past simple and one superlative. [Open answer · Respuesta libre](#)

Respuesta libre. Ejemplo: Last Friday, our school had a book swap in the library. Every student brought an old book and took a different one home. The most popular books were adventure stories. I got a book about space. It was the best morning of the week!

2. What project would you like to present at a science fair? Write two sentences with "will". [Open answer · Respuesta libre](#)

Respuesta libre. Ejemplo: I will build a small boat with plastic bottles. I think it will be the funniest project in my class.