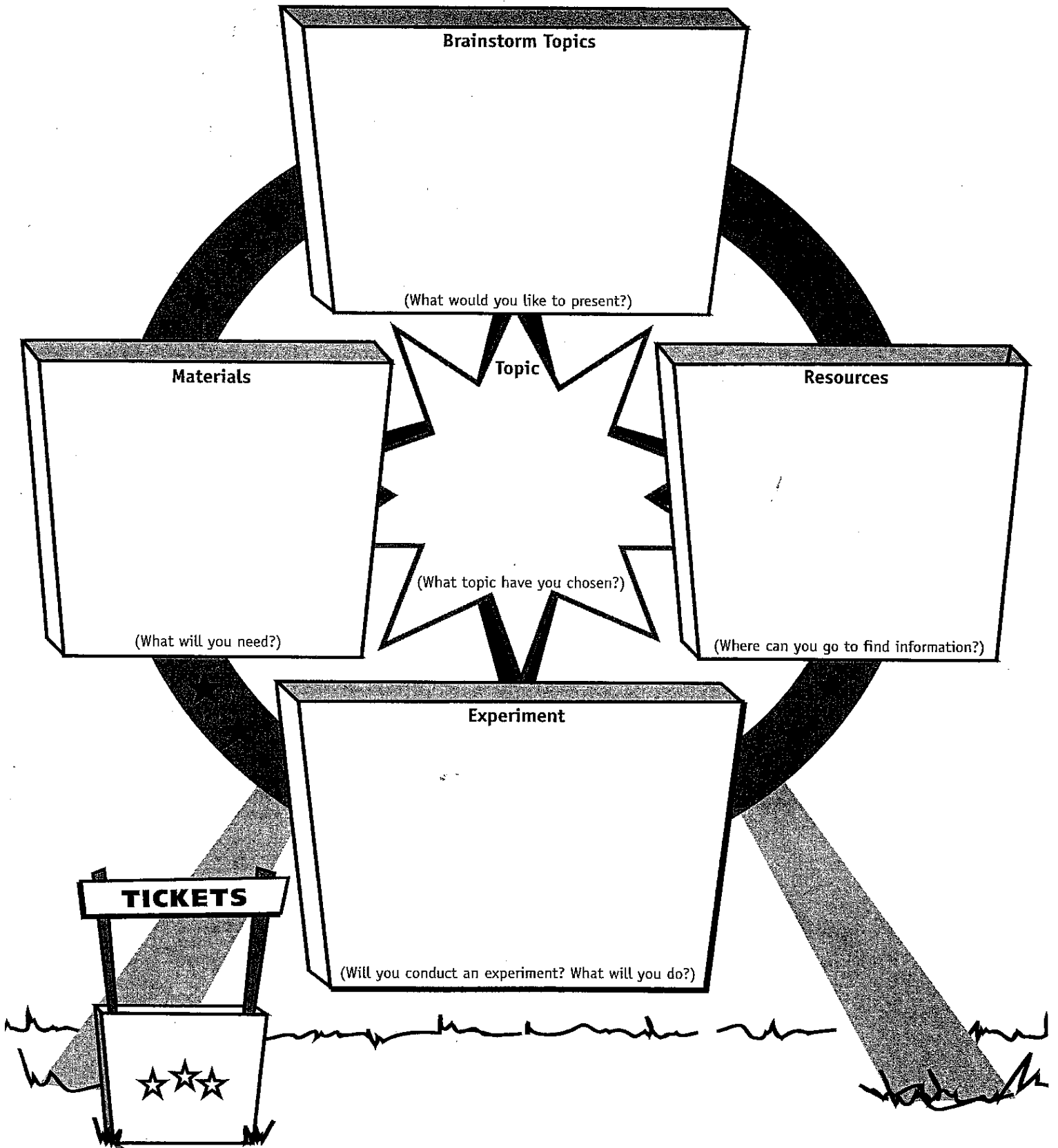


Name: _____

Date: _____

PLAN YOUR SCIENCE FAIR PROJECT



★ Skills

Students will:

- ✦ brainstorm potential topics
- ✦ organize information required to complete project
- ✦ evaluate suitability of topic for science fair

Purpose

One of the most difficult tasks of designing and presenting a science fair project is determining a suitable topic. The Plan Your Science Fair Project organizer helps students to think about a particular choice: *Do I have resources? Can I gather the necessary materials? How will I demonstrate knowledge?* Preplanning will help students evaluate the suitability of their topic and help them to budget their time.

How to Use the Organizer

After you have presented your criteria for science fair projects, invite students to use this organizer to help them explore their ideas. Suggest that they brainstorm a list of topics and record them in the top car. Point out that the most successful projects are those that genuinely interest the scientist and that can be managed within the time period. Once they have decided on a topic, have them write it in the center of the organizer. Allow them to do research to complete the rest of the graphic organizer. If a student has difficulty coming up with resources or materials, or if the topic does not lend itself to a demonstration, suggest that the student explore one of the other topics by completing a new organizer.

Examples

Primary Grades

A third-grade student chose to study the body's reaction time, since her softball coach had just discussed this topic. She did some preliminary research and made up her own experiment as a homework assignment.

Intermediate Grades

In a science fair competition, a team of sixth graders chose to study the factors that affect electricity. This graphic shows their second attempt to find a suitable topic. Their first attempt, to determine the effect of water on paper towels, proved to be too simple when compared to the projects of classmates.

