

# Research Activities

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## Chapter: Introduction to Earth Science

Use the items below as a starting point for independent research projects.

1. On a large sheet of paper or cardboard, prepare a chart and use the four main branches of Earth science as column headings. Beneath each heading, list at least three areas of specialization. You may want to use library resources or the Internet to gather this information. Attach appropriate pictures to the chart and present the finished chart to your class.
2. Measure the amount of pollution that falls from the air as solid particles. To do this, collect tops from jars, and cut out white paper disks to fit inside. Rub the disks with petroleum jelly, and place the tops disk-side up in different locations for a couple of days. Then observe which location has the most air pollutants. Explain your methods and your results to the class.
3. Write to a member of the United States Congress or to a local legislator for information about pending legislation that concerns water or air pollution. Share this information with the class.
4. The meteorite-impact hypothesis is one way to explain why dinosaurs became extinct. Research other hypotheses that have been proposed to explain the extinction of dinosaurs. In a report, describe these hypotheses and the observations that led to each hypothesis. Also describe any tests that have been carried out that support or refute these hypotheses and any conclusions that have been drawn about the hypotheses.
5. Read an Earth-science article in a science journal, such as *Scientific American*. Summarize the article for your class. If the article describes an experiment, explain how the researchers set up the experiment and what the hypothesis, observations, and conclusions were.