



Student

Jaimi Cooks
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Summary

When high school sophomore Jaimi Cooks decided to enter her county's regional science fair for the first time, she turned to Science Buddies for inspiration. Using the Topic Selection Wizard, Jaimi found a Science Buddies Project Idea that interested her. She went on to earn a 4th-place category award in physical sciences.



Overview

As a sophomore, San Francisco Bay Area student Jaimi Cooks decided to enter her local regional fair, the Contra Costa Science and Engineering Fair (CCSEF). Participating in the fair was not a requirement for her science class, but Jaimi decided to enter because she says she loves “science fairs and science in general.”

Having previously heard about Science Buddies from a middle school science teacher, Jaimi headed to the Science Buddies website to begin her search for a low-cost and exciting hands-on science project. Using the [Topic Selection Wizard](#), she discovered a Science Buddies Project Idea entitled [“Stealthy Shapes: How to Make an Aircraft Invisible to Radar.”](#) The project, from the [physics area](#) of the [Science Buddies Project Idea library](#), is an exploration of the science behind stealth technology used in military aircraft and lets students explore how various geometric shapes scatter light and help make aircraft seem “invisible to radar detection.”

Although Jaimi knew a bit about stealth technology from TV, she was amazed by the multitude of different aircraft designs that she could model for testing as part of the project. She conducted the experiment and entered it in the 2010 CCSEF where she earned a 4th-place award in the physical sciences category. The quality of Jaimi's investigative work—and her extracurricular success at CCSEF—so impressed her science teacher, that Jaimi was exempted from the course final exam!

The excitement of receiving an award for her first high school science fair project has inspired Jaimi to enter the fair again next year. She credits the Science Buddies Topic Selection Wizard as the “key” to helping her select an award-winning Project Idea.