

The Big Bang

UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition

Interested in entering STEM projects into The Big Bang UK Young Scientists & Engineers Competition, but don't know where to start, or looking for project ideas?

► Why get involved?

- Inspire young people to think and behave like scientists and engineers through project work
- Allow young people to explore an area of interest and develop independent learning skills
- Chance to celebrate and share their achievements with the wider community and media
- Opportunity to network with like-minded peers and members of industry and STEM employers

► What makes a successful project?

What we love about The Big Bang Competition is the amazing array of projects that are entered every year. The scope of the Competition is deliberately broad, so any project in the field of STEM can enter – projects ranging from **health** to the **environment** and from **computing** to **design and technology**; the options are endless!

Projects do not have to meet any set standards to enter the Competition. It doesn't matter if you conducted your project using simple everyday items or whether you undertook research in a scientific laboratory; it's all about the **idea and the enthusiasm behind it**. It could be an invention, a communication campaign or research into solving a problem within the community. [Check out our case studies](#) for examples of previous projects.

► Where to get started?

If it's your first time taking part, why not take a look through some project ideas online?

We would highly recommend looking into [CREST Awards](#), which have a huge online bank full of science project ideas or [Practical Action's](#) resources with a focus on developing solutions to real-world global issues. These resources are all free and talk you through the steps you need to take, along with the equipment and materials you might need.

Alternatively, if you want to start from scratch and your students have been inspired by a particular topic, they can plan their own project. We would suggest following our [judging criteria](#) online to help work out what they need to cover – things like a background and rationale, a clear methodology, some results or evidence of testing, a conclusion and lastly and very importantly, reflection on what they've learnt and what problems they overcame along the way.

"As a teacher preparing for the Big Bang, you learn so much about the students' abilities that may not be as clearly evident in normal lessons and tests. Students with additional needs have particularly flourished in STEM when completing projects as they prefer alternative teaching methods."

Thandiwe Banda,
Head of STEM, Portslade
Aldridge Community
Academy

"The Big Bang Competition is a vibrant celebration of young people and STEM where students compete for big prizes but the best accolade is simply being part of the excitement!"

Dr Meryl Batchelder,
Subject leader for Science,
Corbridge Middle School

How to enter?

There are two possible routes to entry; through a [regional heat in your local area](#) where students showcase their project to judges, or [online via The Big Bang Competition website](#), where they submit a video or report to be assessed remotely.

Rules and eligibility?

- Entrants must be aged between 11 and 19 and in full-time secondary education or training.
- Entrants can only enter one project in the Competition, either as an individual or as part of a team.

