**Elementary Category Descriptions**

The following definitions and examples help explain what fits in each category, using examples from Science Buddies. All science projects will have some overlap with other categories, so please choose one that best fits the project.

1. **Biological Sciences** is a branch of science that deals with living organisms and their vital processes. Biology encompasses diverse fields, including botany, conservation, ecology, evolution, genetics, marine biology, medicine, microbiology, molecular biology, physiology, and zoology.

2. **Chemistry** is the branch of science that deals with the properties, composition, and structure https://www.merriam-webster.comof elements and compounds, how they can change, and the energy that is released or absorbed when they change.

3. **Earth and Environmental Science** is an interdisciplinary academic field that draws on ecology, geology, meteorology, biology, chemistry, engineering, and physics to study environmental problems and human impacts on the environment.

4. **Physics** is a science that deals with matter and energy and the way they act on each other in heat, light, electricity, and sound. high-energy/nuclear/modern/particle physics.

5. **Engineering/Technology/Mathematics:**

* + **Engineering** is the application of science to the optimum conversion of the resources of nature to the uses of humankind. Here the expectation is to test designs for optimal use.
	+ **Technology** as a field is broadly defined as using tools to achieve human goals, but here we are specifically meaning computer technology such as writing programs and computer science.
	+ **Mathematics** is the science of structure, order, and relation that has evolved from elemental practices of counting, measuring, and describing the shapes of objects. It deals with logical reasoning and quantitative calculation, and its development has involved an increasing degree of idealization and abstraction of its subject matter.

**Sources:**

Britannica. https://www.britannica.com

Science Buddies. https://www.sciencebuddies.org

Merriam Webster. https://www.merriam-webster.com