

Conducting Background Research about Our “Should We” Question



Deciding on what to research

Scientists often look to previous research to see what other people already know about the topic they are interested in studying. This helps them so that they can build on other people’s knowledge and create new knowledge! This kind of research can help scientists decide on a starting point for an investigation, explain their findings, or even raise new questions about their topic. This kind of research should be a part of the field-based and community-based research that you’re doing.

You can do research on a topic at the beginning of your investigation, in the middle, or at the end to try to explain what you found. The research you do can be in magazines, books, on websites, through podcasts, or in the newspaper. You have so many choices!

Complete the table below or on a separate sheet of paper to keep track of your research!

Website/podcast/magazine/ tv shows, book (etc.)	What we’re learning from this source	How this helps us explore our “Should We” question